

In attendance- Cynthia Chory, Lori Uysal, Johanna Garcia, Isabelle Elton, Sarah Durham, Marianne Kugler, Aimee Colon, Jessica Mitchell, Casey Mellili, Gerry Goss, and Thomas Canning

Meeting called to order 7:05 a.m. by Lori Uysal

Minutes reviewed and approved

Budget:

\$6k increase but it may be taken away. Gained two students but we may lose two students. After-school programming funds from the PTO have been spent. Waiting for the spring monies from the PTO to come in so they can set a date for the start.

New Business

Soaring Words- Lori Uysal opened the conversation by saying there were concerns regarding how the program was going to affect scheduling. The curriculum runs 90 minutes total for each unit. Questions posed: How does it factor in within the grade levels? What would a year long curriculum look like? Could it be done on Saturdays or after school? What does the training look like for teachers? What data would we have to provide the program in order for the CBO to gain financially? Can the program work if we piece meal? How does the CBO's relationship with corporations come in to play with the school?

All students would benefit from the program (canned food drive, Think Pink, toy drive) philanthropic works. The teacher who has used the program in the past has not worked the program with younger kids. She only worked with 6-8. There was never formal training. Everything was very organic.

Cons:

Anxiety within the school body

Children might start to worry whether or not they are going to get sick

Religious aspect to the program

Branding

Ms. Chory has asked we table the discussion until we are in a better place to talk about the program. Perhaps ask the program to come in on a Saturday to have them work with one grade as a beta test. We need more clarity on how the program works.

Motioned made by JG to table the discussion. Motion approved.

AP Discussion-

At the PTO meeting last month, a discussion was had regarding the lack of AP in the I.S. and the need to have someone they can identify with upstairs. Parents are under the assumption

Edmonds' old office is still empty. The 4th grade parents are wondering how their children will move forward once they are on the fourth floor without an administrative connection. Parents are wondering if things are going to change. Ms. Mellili pointed out we have talked about this several times. Perhaps a survey could be created and disbursed to students to see how they are feeling? Sarah Durham said she feels like there's a disconnect because she's unclear about how Engrade Pro works. She still doesn't know where to go for contacts and communications. Ms. Mellili brought up the conversation a few weeks ago regarding the "adoption" of certain kids that are at risk throughout the school. Torres said that the system is better upstairs with the staff. The teachers are able to talk about things that are happening throughout the school. Lori said we need a focal point upstairs. She too feels there still is a disconnect. Ms. Chory brought up a story regarding a student she spoke to about how he was feeling on Friday. She was able to connect with him on a deeper level. Social/emotional needs are really being met by staff and faculty. She's enjoying spending time upstairs and being more visible to the students by sitting at the late desk. Ms. Marrero is being seen as a facilitator throughout the building now. Ms. Mitchell said there is more communication taking place between the floors. Johanna Garcia mentioned she feels the disconnect has to do with a lack of communication. Wants to further the conversation on a survey before anything goes out. On the PTO front, parents are more concerned about branding. We've been known as the school with two AP's and how that's now changed. A recommendation was made for more teachers to attend the PTO meetings in the hopes of building more of a connection. Ms. Mellili said some people have a hard time with change. Instructionally, the administration is really making sure everything is in place. Ms. Mitchell said we have a core group of parents that are very involved but for those who are not, they're still very confused as to how the chain of command work. Ms. Chory won't be at the December PTO meeting but she will address this issue at the January meeting. Possible slide show to help ease the 4th grade into the IS?

Sub-Committee Update-

Johanna Garcia- The SLT parents met with Ms. McCullough re: the drug/sex ed. She was surprised to learn that the drug conversation takes place early in the year and that it starts with what's in our medicine cabinet. Sex ed is taught by Ms. S. Luna. She recently attended a meeting regarding this topic. Johanna Garcia is suggesting we have a parent workshop, so we can get a better understanding as to what the parents would like for the school to talk about in the class. Sex Ed starts in 7th grade- once a week for two or three months. DoE dictates when the lessons commence. Ms. Chory would like a workshop with an independent CBO. A survey should happen prior to anything taking place. Ms. McCullough recommended having transparency regarding sex ed. Parents need to start having these sort of conversations.

Resources/Outreach-

Ms. Chory- We support our community throughout the year. We took six boxes of food to a family from the canned food drive. In the past, we have adopted families more aggressively but some of the kids started taking advantage of the situation. When someone needs something, we connect them with resources. We give physical items to those in needs versus financial Meeting adjourned @ 8:17 a.m. Next meeting 1/4.