

Whittier Site Council Minutes

Tuesday, December 19th, 2017

Present:

Norma Gibbs, Principal

Kenji Okumori, Parent

Jeff "Nacho" Carlson, Parent and Community Ed

Edie McDonald, Art Teacher

Becky Lewis, Whittier Park Director

Libby Dominguez, Parent and IB Coordinator

Liz Done, First Grade Teacher and Union Steward

Ashley Rudolph, Second Grade Teacher

Shanna Woods. Community Partner Girl Scouts

Dave Schladetzky, Parent

Cecilia Laden, Spanish Teacher

Sudeqa Aden, Parent

Opening introduction: Principal Gibbs passed out the bylaws and reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Site Council: budget, parking, student achievement and data, recommend use of Title One. Look at data to inform budget discussions. We have significant resources due to high ELL populations. This year there are three major goals: improve literacy, improve math and improve school climate. Site council worked last year to advise the principal on bus safety and traffic flow issues that were later translated into policy changes at Whittier. Many other recommendations of the Site Council have led to policy changes.

We should review the minutes from the prior meeting at the outset and then move to approve the agenda. If things need to be added to the agenda we build space for those items. Term for co-chairmanship is two years. Kenji will remain chair for the year. Minutes are kept in a Google Folder.

The principal does not have a say in how much money comes into the building. October is the month that the district counts students to determine allocations.

PTA has a \$30,000 budget – biggest expenditures are for Amity and MacPhail. Other priorities are field trips and supplies. Suggestion that the PTA and the Site Council work together to align priorities.

Principal Gibbs predicts that the district will not allocate more funding this year, given the overall shortfall. At February meeting, Site Council should prioritize values at the February meeting.

Question raised about effects of suspensions on student achievement. Discussion around responsive classroom approach to school climate and as a tool to prevent excessive suspensions. Responsive classroom is an ecosystem of relationships, rituals and routines.

Parent concern about “chaos” on certain days. Not every day, but on some days, it feels out of control. Ms. Dominguez asserts that we can’t rely exclusively on staff. Students have to share in the responsibility.

Principal Gibbs compares our decisions on this topic to a trip down the cereal aisle. Many kinds of cereal, but we have to choose one. We’ve chosen responsive classroom.

Further notes were taken on a Google Doc by Lizz Callaghan Done