

Site Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 21, 2018

Present: Ashley Rudolph, Mary Daub, Becky Lewis, Jeff Carlson, Minerva Cotorra, Maria Cecilia Laden, Emily Fitzgerald, David Schladetzky, Terri Haberman, Kenji Okumura

Welcome from Principal Gibbs and introductions

Approval of the Agenda

Update from Becky Lewis, Whittier Park Director. The roof of the gym will be reconstructed. Work will begin in June and will end before school is in session in late August. Community rooms and front desk will be open. The wading pool and the outdoor restrooms will be closed. Signage will point families toward Mueller for the wading pool there.

Looking over the SY 18-19 budget priorities. SPEN will be going down to two classrooms. Dave – are we getting out of the SPEN business? PG: No, we are not. We've invested in mentoring and coaching and support and it has paid off.

For Spanish, we are switching the person from the K-2 AE to other roles. The Amity will cover the K-2 Heritage Language co-hort.

Fifth grade goes from four to three classrooms next year. The fifth grade teacher that we are losing is a teacher that is retiring. The fourth grade team will lose one teacher- that will be based on seniority. Principal Gibbs is building the flexibility to add back in a fourth grade teacher if the numbers require it.

For art we will have only grades 3-5 and we will have Theater for grades K-2. We will retain the current art teacher – she may split between Whittier and another school. There is a need for the younger grades to be active. This is feedback from the teaching staff. Safety and referrals have been an issue in art this year. The data said we needed to make that change.

IB Coordinator and Math and Literacy Differentiation are also purchased in this budget. Each grade will decide how the Literacy and Math Specialist will be used. Ford will stay in telescoping but the other math position can range.

Deb Freeman's position was increased for her to get benefits and also for her to support the kindergarten team. Social Emotional Learning Coach at 1.0 FTE. Social Emotional Learning and IB Learner Profile have a lot of overlap.

The .4 FTE of the IB Coordinator position will help that individual add rigor to the curriculum through Webb's Depth of Knowledge. IB Coordinator will seek to add complexity as students move up the ladder through grade levels. Mary – each year that I teach IB I learn how much deeper it is. We do have our lesson plans but each year the students take the learning in different directions. Rudolph – I.B. teachers have to think completely different. At the school where I did my student teaching, we simply presented the content to students, told them what to learn. At Whittier we ask them to inquire, to ask questions, to form their own conclusions. Lots of open questions and student-led learning. Each new teacher at Whittier has a steep learning curve. It takes at least three years to learn the IB approach.

Principal Gibbs: Classroom teachers will give feedback via surveys about the way the IB Coordinator can best support them. Each team's requests will be different.

Emily – The family services seem to be reduced next year. Principal Gibbs: Ms. Pat's position has been collapsed. Any position that was in the ESP bargaining unit that had to do with family services has been collapsed. A new AE position will be created – the person coming in will have the skill set of the volunteer coordination. Emily: The family liaison work this year was taken up by volunteers and PTA board.

Dave – the ILT team gave the Family Services top priority. Jesus and Omer are reduced. What gives? The language support is needed. How do we support? Emily – could we also stagger the time that Jesus and Omer are at the desk? Principal Gibbs – Javier and Abdi will also staff the desk in the afternoons. Javier and Abdi cover lunches, do buses, sub when needed. When called on behavior they are right there. They are out on the floor and in classes and not just sitting in their offices.

Rudolph – will there be movement among teachers? Principal Gibbs – So far, eleven teachers have returned their staff survey and each one has said that they want to stay right where they are.

Next meeting: Third Wednesday in April – April 18, 6 pm

Meeting adjourned.