

## PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 1/6/17

In attendance:

- Principal Allen, Vice Principal Apfel
- Teachers: Jodie Park, Stephanie Scarborough, Kristin Taylor
- Parent Coordinator: Heather Weston
- Parents: Kate Hatzel-Bush, Amy Huggans, Wayne Isaak, Cindy Lobel, Kathleen Mulholland
- Visiting parents: Shawn Liu, Judy Corless

### 1. Diversity

- Diversity Committee – Based upon feedback from our Diversity presentation this Fall, Heather has decided to set up a PTA/PS 261 Cares Social Action Committee the first meeting will be on January 11 after drop off. This meeting will address the goals of the group. The time can be changed in the future if teachers want to participate.
- The Human Root will be giving several workshops to the teachers and parents
  - a. 2/17 will be for the staff and will address anti-oppression and gender/sexuality issues, including issues of awareness, language and policies;
  - b. 4/7 – a scheduled half-day - Affinity Groups for teachers;
  - c. 5/18 - Affinity Groups for parents and teachers;
  - d. 5/23 - Parents Workshop
  - e. 6/8 – Community Celebration

### 2. Recess Coordinators – Deer Mountain – They will start coming to our school in February on a consulting/observation basis. This will permit them to give feedback and assess our needs for next year. A few staff members will be provided but the focus will be on setting up the future program.

- Goals will be to give children choices for activities
- Encourage the kids to be engaged
- For the kids with issues of rough play, to permit them to be redirected before punitive measures have to be taken

### 3. Recruitment/Open Houses

- Heather estimates that over 170 people came to the last open house for which there was no sign up. The feedback was excellent about our school's vision. Principal Allen said that the comment she heard most was that our school was "authentic."
- Next open house is January 10. This time, Heather is doing a formal sign up. She started with 100 slots and all are full. She then added another 30 and those are nearly full

#### 4. Public SLT Meetings

- In accordance with the new law, we will be amending by-laws to address the rules associated with attendance by the general public
- Thoughts are that,
  - a. with recordings, they should be audio only;
  - b. if an outside person has an issue to address, that will be considered to be calendared for a future meeting
- Cindy will review current by-laws to see what we need to do to have them amended

#### 5. MLK March

- Will be on January 20 – will go from about 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
- Principal Allen will be contacting 84<sup>th</sup> precinct – march to be down Pacific with a turn on Court Street
- We hope to be able to go inside the Rotunda
- The chorus will sing and all kids will sing freedom songs; 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also do some readings
- Principal Allen will go over guidelines with the teachers to focus on MLK's three visions – to have the children think globally the way he did
- Signs regarding Donald Trump will not be permitted

#### 6. State Testing Informational meeting

- Testing is early this year with the ELA testing at the end of March
- The issue will be first raised at the January 27 PTA meeting
- Official presentation will be March 2. We will try to do pizza and child care in cafeteria like last year
- Heather and Jodie discussed how we can present both pros and cons to testing; we do not want this exclusively to be an “opt out” meeting

#### 7. Betsy Devos – nominee for Secretary of Education

- Some parents at PS 10 and PS 321 are putting together letters to our Senators to oppose the nomination. Cindy simply provided us with a copy of that letter to permit parents to send, if they so choose
- This will not be school sponsored because it is political

#### 8. Meeting adjourned at 8:25.

#### Action Items for Next meeting:

- Testing Informational Meetings
- Addressing SLT Bylaws