

PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 4/8/16

In attendance:

- Principal Mills
- Teachers: Jamie Pandolf, Stephanie Scarborough, Kristin Taylor
- Parent Coordinator: Heather Weston
- PTA Rep: Nora McCauley
- Parents: Kate Hazel-Busch, Amy Huggans, Curt Iiams, Wayne Isaak, Cindy Lobel, Kathleen Mulholland

1. Cindy Lobel called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Minutes from prior meeting approved.
2. Recap on Math Workshops
 - Very helpful for those who attended; however, very low turnout for evening workshop
 - What is best time to hold workshops?– mornings seem best but still not great turnout
 - Another workshop be held – cannot do on the next Families as Learning Partners Day as that is April 22, same day as Sidewalk Poetry
 - Discussion regarding recording workshops and then making it available on website – “Camtasia”
 - At very least, perhaps Heather can put Kristin’s slide presentation on website for parents to review
 - Further discussion regarding the best way to communicate: email, backpack, or teacher direct communication – it was agreed that all methods may still be necessary
 - Communications Committee – Curt volunteered to serve and help get it up and running
3. PROSE (Progressive Redesign Opportunity Schools for Excellence)
 - Although schools have protocols they must follow, if the school petitions and comes up with own way of doing something and a vote is taken, those protocols can be revised
 - Principal Mills originally became involved as she thought that Opt Out may be discussed; however, it was not so she decided to hold off on participating until this year
 - PROSE allows teachers to come up with creative ways to redesign the curriculum
 - 321, 447 and 29 are all PROSE schools
 - Important aspect of this is that it allows for requirements to extend outside the contract. Thus, the teachers must agree because, if the program is adopted, all

must adhere to the changes regardless of the overall collective bargaining agreement

- Requires a 65% vote by the teachers before a change can be approved
- Example: instead of spreading professional development out over days, it can be held on Mondays from 3-6 p.m.
- Principal Mills mentioned that a vote to consider a PROSE program can be good – even if it doesn't pass, it permits conversation about important issues
- Pathways meeting – will be attended by Principal Mills and Kristin Taylor

4. CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan)

- Series of workshops to be held on April 16.
- All members of SLT are invited to attend – sign up by April 15
- Emails will be exchanged to discuss who is attending which workshop so we can try to coordinate
- 261 is no longer a focus school; while it was a focus school, there was an SCEP, meaning that the State dictated much of what was contained in the school's plan. There was little parental involvement
- For a normal CEP, committees must be established and meetings outside of normal SLT meetings will need to be held

5. Border Crossers/Racial Justice and Communications

- Border Crossers has offered to do a presentation for SLT
- School staff is currently involved in workshops; Rachel Godsell presented to teachers; concern is creating equitable communities
- Rebecca Carroll, a writer for the Guardian, did a presentation for Stephanie Scarborough regarding the daily lives of kids, the diverse way in which kids in our school live – she discussed what is happening in the world and in our community – she has offered to come to talk to parents
- Main concern is that we create a community, particularly with teachers in the classroom, where discussions can be had that are age appropriate and raise issues in the least offensive way

6. Action Items

- CEP
- SLT election
- Plans for next year