

PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 2/2/18

In attendance:

- Principal Allen
- Teachers: Nicole Eastzer, Jamie Gifkins, Lindsey Sproul
- PTA Representative: Judy Corless
- Parent Coordinator: Heather Weston
- Parents: Maud Abeel, Tanya Friedman, Wayne Isaak, Scott Jackson, Kathleen Mulholland
- DC 37 Rep: Nancy Sinatra

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 – prior minutes approved
2. MLK March was great – very moving, speeches by kids were impressive
3. Math workshops
 - Complete – the last one was very well attended as were all of the workshops
 - Parents mentioned that they would love to have them at the beginning of the year last year
 - May video next year
 - One teacher does little videos for parents doing math strategies – very effective. May try to create for each grade level, include the kids in them and then email out.
4. Homework survey
 - Prior to meeting, Tanya provided literature regarding research relating to homework
 - No evidence that homework for K-2 is helpful
 - There is a question as to whether homework for 3-5 is helpful
 - Evidence suggests it is meaningful for high school
 - Homework can actually increase the gap with struggling kids because
 - a) if they are already struggling, homework is just more frustration
 - b) some kids do not have spaces in their homes that allow them an opportunity to complete homework
 - c) it can affect whether a child likes or dislikes school
 - d) no question that reading at any age is helpful
 - There are studies indicating that homework, if tailored, can be helpful even at a young age. However, Jamie mentioned that she tried to create differentiated homework for the kids a few years ago and it did not go well.
 - Lower grades have packets sent home – sometimes for the whole week rather than night by night

- Although some parents want more homework overall, Jamie said that it has been helpful to create “must dos” and “may dos”
 - As a general rule, there are about 5% of kids who never do homework and then about 25-30% who sometimes do homework
 - We want to focus on having teachers on same page as to school’s philosophy regarding homework and then communicating that to families
 - Jackie mentioned that, when she taught, her focus was to have the kids and families make a home/school connection
 - Key is that families realize that homework is for practice, we are not expecting mastery – getting them all right does not matter
 - Does the SLT have the authority to create a school-wide homework policy?
 - Should we create a homework sub-committee
5. Grant writing – we do not currently have a plan but everyone should think of where to go to get grants;
- Jackie would really like to get something around music
 - Wayne has offered to help once the talent show is over
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Action items for next meeting:

- Grants
- Opt Out