

PS261 SLT Meeting Minutes 5/6/16

In attendance:

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

1. Cindy Lobel called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Minutes from prior meeting approved.
2. SLT workshops provided by the DOE
 - Nora McCauley was disappointed in the session she attended. It related to parental involvement which is of interest to her as PTA President and is always looking at ways to improve involvement. However, she felt that the discussion focused too much on student attendance and seemed to turn into a negative environment. There were good anecdotes and data but it seemed to have gotten lost in the mood of the session.
 - Heather Weston attended the Eagle Academy session on conflict resolution in schools. She found that session particularly helpful and informative.
 - Cindy Lobel and Principal Mills attended the session on the CEP. Cindy found it very informative and was pleased to learn, based upon the discussion, that we are very lucky in our school because the SLT and Principal have a good relationship. It was apparent in the session she attended that other schools have a much more combative and non-collaborative relationship.
 - Principal Mills is going to make the session available on line via a link.
3. CEP – our school is now in “next year” mode. Since we are no longer a focus school, the parents in the SLT will have a much greater role in it. However, this will require some work over the summer. Most parental members of the SLT are happy to participate so long as there is sufficient notice of the meetings.
 - Next meeting we want to look at the old CEP and break up what needs to be done and set up a tentative schedule. The current CEP should provide a good template.

- Asst. Principal Joseph reminded us that a “fantasy” CEP is often one we aspire to but it is more important that we set goals that we can actually achieve. We will be held accountable for any CEP we create.
4. Time Sheets – SLT has a budget and if we do not put in for the funds, they will be lost. The money cannot be allocated elsewhere.
 5. Spring workshops
 - This year’s spring workshop will be held on Thursday, May 12 and is a moving up workshop, much like last year. The parents will be given an opportunity to meet the teachers for the next grade and a special workshop will be for the parents of 5th graders. That discussion will be about what to expect in middle school.
 - Kristen suggested that we begin thinking about what type of workshop we would like for spring next year. Is moving up the way to go or are there other topics we should consider? Should there be a survey?
 6. Current teacher workshops
 - The teachers are currently doing workshops on race/gender/class/ethnicity awareness
 - Our school wants to create an equitable spaces in the classroom where we are aware of our own biases
 - We are known as a diverse school – we want to be a good example
 - Kristen mentioned that, particularly with the current environment created by the election, children are bringing up issues in the classroom. Teachers want to know how to respond appropriately for the age group – and noted that, when a difficult situation comes up, sometimes it is necessary to re-direct the conversation but sometimes avoiding the topic can also be its own discussion.
 7. SLT elections
 - Cindy cannot be involved because her seat is open and she is running for re-election
 - Kathleen offered to help guide the election; she and Wayne will man the table on election day if there is more than one nominee

- There needs to be a call for nominees (to be made at PTA meeting), the nomination forms need to be distributed, and then, if necessary, election to be held
- Cindy will check the guidelines to let us know what timelines are required
- The teacher elections will be next fall – Jamie will need to be replaced as she will be on maternity leave. Kristen is currently holding two spots – teacher and Rep since Marisa is out on leave

8. Action Items

- CEP
- Time Sheets
- SLT election
- Fall workshops
- Plans for next year