

Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School Site Council 2010-2011

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2010

In Attendance

Mary Pat O'Connell

Ginna Park
Sarah Patanroi
Kevin Stevens
Jodie Harrier

Alli Deeter
Mike Grady
Laura Nicolls
Vicki Sandin
Julie Tomz

Agenda Item 1: Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- The Council reviewed and approved the draft Minutes of the November 1 meeting, with one addition to Item 4, stating that the Council was pleased to note that Nixon students had performed above other elementary schools in the District on the “Year’s Progress” achievement metric.

Agenda Item 2: Thoughts on Nurture Shock Book Discussion

- Attendance was good, with about 40 people present. Childcare worked out well.
- Discussion was lively and informative.
- Alli volunteered to prepare a short article for the Nixon News to publicize that the chapter summaries which the Council prepared for the book discussion were available on the Nixon website, and to arrange of their posting on the website.
- Alli will talk with Janice Mulholland about putting together a set of reference books in a “parenting” section in the Nixon library.

Agenda Item 3: Results of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

- Mary Pat passed out and discussed in detail materials regarding CELDT test content and results. She noted that this is a test given only to students whose parents indicate that their child’s primary language is other than English. The purpose of the test is to

identify students in need of additional help in learning English, and to monitor such students' progress in learning English. Students are expected to progress at least one grade level per year with appropriate English language support from Nixon until they no longer need such special support. If not, they are given extra support.

- Mary Pat noted that 122 students from Nixon were tested this year, which (because of Nixon's unique student population including many foreign families) is a much larger percentage of students than other schools in the District. Mary Pat and Megan Cox review each child's scores and discuss what support is needed to ensure each child's progress in becoming fluent in English. Mary Pat noted that overall, the progress of Nixon's English language learners has been good, and accordingly, Mary Pat and the Council believe Nixon is doing a very good job meeting the needs of its English language learners.

Agenda Item 4: ERB Data for 4th and 5th Graders

- Mary Pat passed out and explained the results of the ERB Writing Assessment program which 4th and 5th grade students participate in during the fall. Teachers use the ERB data to identify trends and overall teaching needs in the classroom. They also identify the needs of individual students.
- Nixon's ERB scores were similar to last year and Mary Pat noted that Nixon students' results have been better than those of comparable public and private schools which administer the test (only more affluent districts can afford to administer the test).

Agenda Item 5: School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for 2008-2009

- Mary Pat distributed and discussed the highlights of Nixon's SARC, which is a State mandated report (published annually in arrears) on each California public school. Mary Pat commented on, and answered questions regarding the report, including certain items which Mary Pat does not believe to be accurate. Mary Pat also noted, with respect to the 5th grade students' physical fitness results, that she has provided feedback to the supervisors of the District's P.E. instructors regarding the need to better prepare students to meet the California fitness standards.
- Mary Pat also called the Council's attention to Nixon's "Mission Statement" set forth in the SARC, and suggested that it might be appropriate to initiate a process to update and revise Nixon's Mission Statement and to develop a Vision Statement. Mary Pat thinks that the current mission/vision statement is too generic to be particularly useful, in addition to not being generally known to the Nixon community.
- Mary Pat distributed excerpts from the book Failing is Not an Option, by Alan Blangston, regarding mission and vision statements, and noted that while updating Nixon's mission/vision statement is not required, she believes that the process of doing so could be a useful and inspirational way of engaging and inspiring the entire Nixon community to achieve their collective goals.