

## **MINUTES FOR NIXON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 13, 2015**

**Attendance:** Tim Edmonds, Ann Kwolek, Stephannie Lobell, Mary Pat O'Connell, Kim Peckenpaugh, Kim Bomar, Andy Dimock, Terry Godfrey, Amanda Higgins, Richard Sousa

### **Minutes**

The March meeting minutes were approved.

### **Welcome PAUSD Board of Education member Ms. Terry Godfrey**

We introduced ourselves. Ms. Godfrey joined the school board in November, and she has been assigned to Nixon. She has two students at Paly who attended Escondido and has worked on PTA and PIE. She also works in the financial field.

### **Update on Nixon's 2014-15 Single Plan for Student Achievement**

Our first goal is that every student will make a year's growth in writing. We assessed in the fall, and our spring assessments will be scored on 4/29/15, so it may not be available at our next meeting. Stephannie proposed moving the May meeting to 5/11/15. All agreed to change the date.

Our second goal was that teachers would find ways to teach to the SEL items on the progress report. Teachers met at a staff meeting to identify the skills that we see clusters of concerns. Ms. O'Connell created a tally of concerns on the progress report by grade level to determine where we could best support our students.

Ms. O'Connell looks at the data across the school to determine what areas need the most support. Our counseling services will expand from 2 to 3 days next year, so we may want to use this data to decide how to best use this resource. Perhaps we could offer targeted intervention supports as we do for children with academic concerns.

After the teachers review this data, Ms. O'Connell will return with a recommendation for materials.

Our third goal was that all teachers would meet over the year to learn and implement the CCSS in math and implement ten days per trimester to instruct in problem solving skills. Our current math curriculum, Everyday Math, was adopted before CCSS. They have created "bridge" materials to address the CCSS, but they are less than satisfactory. The district chose not to adopt a new math curriculum because the currently available materials are inadequate. The big change with CCSS is to cover fewer topics but cover them in more depth, and EDM did not remove any items in its bridge materials. Our fourth grade classes used Engage New York and found it to be helpful, especially with students who need more challenging work. Ms. O'Connell has heard many positive comments from parents about this curriculum. Several classes have also implemented Math Talks, which encourages children to find many strategies for solving math problems.

Ann shared that second grade found it to be more helpful because the strategies are taught explicitly, and the students have many strategies to choose from. They are also required to show their work more. Amanda shared that the parents sometimes feel frustration with the homework because the language is unfamiliar.

**Review instructional minutes data for kindergarten**

Richard asked if we should make a specific or general request for more minutes at Nixon to the school board.

If the entire district goes to full-day kinder, it would require music and PE time for them, which would incur additional cost. Our site council could draft a letter to the school board requesting an incremental increase at Nixon for next year and a full-day schedule for the following year. One difficulty for us involves the busing schedule.

Terry Godfrey offered to begin the process of addressing this issue with the school board.

**Identify and Recruit Three Parent Members for the 2015-2016 Site Council**

Tim offered to serve another term, and one parent has agreed to serve. Several people are interested, so Richard will email them to determine who is interested.

**Comments, Questions, Suggestions**

Tim recommended adopting guidelines for positive ways to communicate with the school. These guidelines exist in other districts, and Ann worked on a team that created this when she worked at Walter Hays. Andy asked to see examples of the Hays document and how it was used. Stephannie suggested attaching this to the district's norms. Richard suggested addressing communication avenues that are appropriate. Ann will see if she can find the Hays document. Stephannie would like to include the students in this document.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25.