

Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School Site Council 2009-2010

Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2009

In Attendance

Mary Pat O'Connell

Megan Cox
Stephanie Han
Kristina Hayes
Sarah Patanroi

Ruth Daines
Alli Deeter
Athina Peiou-Quake
Julie Tomz

Agenda Item 1: Approval of November meeting minutes

- The Site Council began the meeting by approving the minutes for the November Site Council meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Sharing of student achievement data for the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) and the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) Writing Assessment for 4th and 5th grades

- Mary Pat shared CELDT data that showed the progress of Nixon students for whom English is not the primary language. The goal is for students to demonstrate growth of one level per year and ultimately reaching proficiency/fluency and reclassification out of this tracking system.
- Detailed CELDT results can be obtained from Mary Pat. Overall, 90% of Nixon students who took the test showed growth of one or more levels. Mary Pat said this is a fantastic outcome for one year and shows the importance of having a staff person focused on teaching English learners.
- Nixon students overall performed very strongly on the ERB test. Only two elementary schools had a higher percentage of students in the upper "stanine third" among fourth graders, and Nixon had the highest percentage of students in the upper stanine third among all Palo Alto elementary schools for fifth graders.

- There is some question about whether the test is worth its cost, but the data are helpful for tracking the school as a whole and for individual assessments and instructional plans.

Agenda Item 3: Presentation and explanation of the School Accountability Report Card (SARC)

- The SARC was mandated as part of funding from Proposition 98. Data results are made available on the PAUSD website.
- Mary Pat suggested that, in the long term, the Site Council review and suggest changes to the mission statement submitted for Nixon.
- Site Council members made suggestions for minor adjustments to other descriptive parts of the document (e.g., opportunities for parents to become involved in the school).
- Public data regarding class size, demographics, test results, Academic Performance Index, etc. populate the rest of the document.

Agenda Item 4: Discussion and feedback to PAUSD regarding proposed budget cuts for 2010-1 school year

- PAUSD is facing a \$2 million shortfall and wants input from schools and the overall school community about how to address this budget problem.
- Mary Pat reviewed options suggested by the district for ways to save money in the coming year. She explained the options and the pros/cons of cutting certain areas.
- Site Council members were asked to individually rank the options on a scale of 1-3 (with an even number of 1s, 2s, and 3s) regarding the favorability of choosing them for cost savings. The individual rankings were then going to be compiled by Becky, combined with ranking submitted by other constituents (e.g., teachers, PTA Executive Board), and submitted to the district.