School Community Council

Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022 – 5:30 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance:

April Reynolds, Principal
Jack Davis, Outgoing Chair
Leah Jaramillo, Outgoing Vice Chair, Incoming Chair
Jennifer Rosenthal
Jolie Breitling
Jill Sanford
Angela Woodhead
Tisha Eggleston
Lindsey Jefferies
Katherine Hansen
Kimberly Venable
Emily Booth

Welcome/Introductions

- Jack welcomed those in attendance to the first virtual meeting of the year.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

- Jolie motioned to approve the minutes, Leah seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Principal’s Report

- April discussed the Play Works reboot and the Jr. coaches program. 4th and 5th graders lead games with other grade levels. Jr. coaches are issued uniforms. Help run 15-minute recesses. Going smoothly so far and both younger and older kids are enjoying the program. This is an official extension of the Play Works program – decided not to do it last year to maintain class cohorts with Covid – but eager to do it this year. Helps to build capacity with the Play Works program at the school. 30 students applied to be coaches and have been split between 1st and 2nd half of the year. Leadership application process for Jr. coaches.

- SEP conferences were well attended with in person conferences (some remote as well).
- PTA book fair had in person fair – very well attended. Almost $600 of Jolly Rancher suckers sold.
- PTA Move and Groove Fundraiser. Kids had DJ and dance portion and walked laps. Approx. $15k was raised. Good number given fewer students enrolled this year than last.

**SIC Report**

- April provided the SIC report.
- Looking for an upper grade representative on the SIC.
- Zoey presented the PBIS plan to the SIC and solicited feedback from the faculty.
- Discussed how to improve communication relating to students on safety or behavior support plans. Looking at ways of communicating to faculty more broadly how to best engage and support students on these specialized plans.
- Locks on sliding atrium doors were removed for fire safety.
- Locker decorations were discussed. Starting to be a distraction during transitions. Looking for solutions here – and encouraging students to not decorate too elaborately.
- Halloween parade – 9 AM on the 31st – outdoors again. School messenger will provide details.

**PTA Report**

- April provided the PTA report.
- Dinner for the faculty was provided during SEP conferences from Trio.
- Day of the Dead Celebration planning was a big focus. Saturday the 5th from 11-2. Planning nights calendared to make sugar skulls and other crafts.
- Restaurant nights will continue – but will be more selective with events that worked well last year. Mostly outside – some hybrid format weather dependent. Nichos and altars outside the building.
- Angela shared that the Move and Groove raised $16,121.
- Angela also discussed that Reflections planning is underway. Theme this year is Show your Voice. PTA is discussing how to coach parents and students to facilitate smoother digital submission of entries.

**Emerson School Improvement Plan Goals Discussion**

- Literacy goal – working to increase the number of students who are reading core proficient. Acadiance and RI. In lower grades, all teachers are taking Letters training – foundational skills in reading – vocabulary improvement. Diagnostic assessments are a component. In upper grades, working on writing skills. Saw some declines post pandemic. Writing assessment only happens in grade 5. Teachers believe that fall and winter assessment in other grades is beneficial.
- Numeracy goal. This was impacted more by the pandemic, especially secondary math (this was across the district). Last year set a goal to increase proficiency by 5% and Emerson realized an 18% increase. Most grade levels are back to pre-pandemic levels. This year, an assessment was performed to identify gaps and then target instruction to those gaps. This year working on “math talk” – math discourse – how to talk about math.
- Achievement gap goal – focusing on kids with IP and special learning needs. Working to help get students on specialized plan to grade level proficiency. Targeting 40% proficiency for lower-level grades and 100 Lexile point increases in upper grades over the year. Focus is heavily on growth. Tisha described Emerson’s collaborative classroom program and how this helps with this goal.
- Culture goal – using “zones of regulation” program to help students identify how regulated their feelings are and allow them to manage their behavior. Goal here is to adopt a common language across the school community. SCC members asked if parent community could be informed of the “zones” language so they can reinforce and use at home.

**SCC Membership and Leadership Elections**

- Three members are no longer continuing in their final term – Susan, Matt, and Shawn.
- 9 spots open for voting members and 9 people have expressed interest. 6 two-year spots and 3 one-year spots.
- Jill, Jennifer, Lindsey, Angela, Katherine, and Joey unanimously appointed to two-year terms on the Emerson SCC.
- Kimberly, Emily unanimously appointed to one-year term.
- Tommy/Stacy unanimously elected to either one- or two-year terms based on their preferences. April to coordinate.
- Joey unanimously appointed as chair.
- Angela unanimously appointed as vice chair.
- Jill unanimously appointed as secretary.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM*

Next meeting November 9, 2022 – 5:30 PM via Zoom