

LAURELWOOD SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL Minutes
October 7, 2014, 6 pm

Susan Auclair
Kristin Dentone

Diana Morlang
Sabrina Rumford

Joy Shmueli
Linda Varveris

Guests: Bonnie Lieberman, Kelly Neary, Amber Wacht

Documents: slides from Joy's presentation of the role and objectives of SSC; Local Control and Accountability Plan and Annual Update Template.

Diana convened the meeting at 6:08 pm.

Because a quorum was not present, no voting was possible at this meeting.

I. Review of Agenda

Joy asked to add to the agenda a re-vote for new members Bonnie and Kelly to the council. However, objections were raised that neither the necessary quorum existed, nor was present the required co-chair for the meeting since officers were not elected at the September meeting. A discussion of this problem concluded that although the council would continue to meet, that voting and electing new officers could not proceed and the ability of the council to take any action was at a stand. Joy said she would email Lorena Tariba for guidance in how the SSC should proceed now.

II. Review and approve minutes from September meeting

Section III. a. of the minutes from September should be amended to say that the Principal held elections for new members, but that this election is invalid because of a lack of quorum and the absence of the co-chair.

Bonnie noted that her name has been misspelled on SSC documents and asked that this be fixed.

III. Election of officers: Elect co-chairs and secretary.

No votes can be held in the current SSC because of insufficient membership and a lack of presiding officers.

IV. SSC training for existing council members by Joy

Joy presented to SSC members the role and objectives of the SSC using a district slide presentation. Copies were distributed to the council members and guests.

Discussion:

- a. Diana asked for clarification as to how non-parent members were decided. This

reflects a vote among teachers and staff at their fall meeting. We also discussed the problem of recruiting another parent members, preferably from the EL student population. Joy will attend the ELAC meeting on 11.4.14 to recruit a parent member. If this cannot be done, she will ask the district whether we can have a non-EL parent, such as Alice Scritzky join.

- b. Joy explained the goals and importance of SPSA. Questions were raised regarding school goals from last year and how well LW accomplished these. Joy explained how testing has changed and so there is no good data for measuring completion of our stated school goals. We will find out in November whether we will use last year's SPSA format again.
- c. Questions were raised about whether the LW SSC should have a parliamentarian. Linda affirmed that the SSC had this position the last time she served. Joy will check.
- d. Linda asked about the "Cycle of Plan" that governs the work schedule for SSC. There apparently used to be a calendar of activities and workload for the SSC. Members generally agreed that this would help the council accomplish its tasks. Joy will look for this in past SSC materials, and Linda can contact Leslie Kloes, former SSC chair.
- e. Joy emphasized that centralized services from the district have declined in favor of more local control over budgeting and services.

V. District News

- a. Joy discussed that the district is still hiring to fill new positions, and that the second part of the math adoption will take place this fall (first part last Jan.)
- b. The strategic plan committee is seeking new parent members. Joy encouraged SSC parent members to sign up for the committee. This was advertised via schoolloop to the LW community.

V. Site News

- a. conferences are finishing up
- b. walkathon completed last friday, so far the money collected looks similar to past years. A discussion was held about whether the pool of contributing and involved families is getting smaller and whether donations reflect more contribution by fewer families. Joy thought there may be some data coming about this dynamic in the future.
- c. the new first grade teacher is hired and in place: Mrs. Fear. The new kindergarten class starts on monday, but the announcement of who will be the temporary teacher for this class is delayed and there is as yet no permanent hire. These changes should achieve K and 1st grade classes of 23-24 students. The change will not increase the overall number of students at LW. A wellness coordinator has been involved to ensure that the transition is smooth for students. A letter will be sent to affected families next week.
- d. project cornerstone is still stalled because of a lack of parent volunteer to run the program.

VI. DLAC/ELAC News: recruitment of ELAC members to SSC

Discussed earlier in meeting.

VII. Preparing for SPSA discussion in November

- a. Joy discussed how LW population is unusual for the district and this affects the use of money directed toward particular populations. Apparently the district allows that we can use the money for the groups we have identified as needy.
- b. Joy announced that she want to establish a think tank for LW which may include parents as well as the "leadership team" This group will look at how to spend money in the future. Unclear that this group will overlap and intersect with SSC. Date TBA.
- c. Joy also announced that money new to LW: Economic Impact Aid that must be spent by June 2015. This must be added to the SPSA in November.

VIII. Discussion of Future Agenda Items and Other Business

Amber Wacht, former SSC co-chair, 5th grade teacher and LW parent addressed the council.

- a. Amber discussed the letter she has sent to the SCUSD board making them aware of areas the LW SSC has deviated from the bylaws. She called on the SSC to revisit and improve bylaws and SSC practices to improve transparency and accountability.
- b. Key areas where protocol was broken include the scheduling and running of the September 2014 meeting. In the absence of the co-chair and an unwillingness to change the meeting date, the Principal ran the meeting and acted as recorder, conducting a vote of new members that was invalid. Also noted was the absence of an agenda and meeting reminder, and the above discussed standstill in terms of quorum and elected officers that the council now faces.
- c. Amber asked that the board restructure the SSC, create a new plan calendar, reschedule officer elections to the mid-year, provide new members with SSC history and a binder of rule and past work, and create clear guidelines for posting the agenda, minutes and membership to the school community. Finally, she called on the SSC to have a more formal election of members, both teachers and parents, and to limit the terms people serve, and to re-establish the office of parliamentarian. All of these suggestions appeared to be met with agreement from parent members.

IX. Adjournment at 7:10 pm