



SANTA ROSA
FRENCH-AMERICAN
CHARTER SCHOOL

1350 Sonoma Ave
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 9, 2014

Meeting Location: SRFACS Library

Recorded By: Jennifer Jimenez

ATTENDANCE

Pascal Stricher

Cindy Beurtheret

Kathleen Larsen

Sarah L'Hoste

Sheila Moore

Jason Davis

Nas Salamati

Jennifer Jimenez

L. Van Prooyen

Natasha O'Keefe

Patti Sullivan

Debra Sanders

MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Scribe: Jennifer Jimenez

Meeting Actual Start: 5:10 p.m.

Meeting Timekeeper: C. Beurtheret

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Some spelling changes were discussed. J. Davis moved to approve the minutes and C. Beurtheret seconded. Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

S. L'Hoste moved to approve. C. Beurtheret seconded.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

Principal's Report

P. Stricher shared that he attended a conference last month in Montreal. He had a chance to meet with principals of other French schools particularly principals of French charter schools. There were four, including SRFACS, attending the conference. The other three are independent charter schools. SRFACS and another school in New Orleans were the only other schools to get accreditation from the French Ministry this year. Accreditation will be more difficult to achieve in coming years due to some changes in criteria, but since the school already has TK and K accreditation, P. Stricher expressed confidence that it will gain accreditation in the succeeding grade levels.

P. Stricher also shared information about two teacher educators/speakers from McGill University in Montreal that the school might consider inviting to come to SRFACS. There was some additional discussion about how teachers are trained in the immersion model of instruction. C. Beurtheret shared that teachers in France are also trained to teach French as a foreign language. K. Larsen shared that a similar approach has been taken by a school in Petaluma to bring in "big picture" speakers to address teachers and parents about current research as it applies to the students' learning.

There was some discussion about SAB protocol and the guidelines for public comment were reviewed.

Middle School Update

The question of a SRFACS middle school will be on the agenda as a discussion item in the January school board meeting. N. Salamati asked if upper grade parents can be informed of this. N. Shariat and M. Gervais met with district officials to go over student numbers and projections.

School Playground Equipment

P. Stricher shared that the school acquired a large amount of playground equipment. There will be a cart for grades 1-7 taken out by the 5th graders on clear days. A

question was posed about checkout and accountability for student use. Classes have balls assigned to them and are distributed by the teachers. S. Moore, C. Spita, and Cristoff are working on some playground regulations to manage safe play. There was some discussion about how to keep track of students returning equipment. At the district level there is a wellness grant to train staff members in a model provided by an organization called Playwell that helps students learn collaborative playground games. J. Davis asked if the school's staff are getting training in the Playwell model. L. Van Prooyen shared that the campus is participating in a program through PE classes called I Do 26.2 which is a running program for students. Students will also receive incentives for reaching running goals. The culminating event will be participation in the Human Race. A question was posed about whether or not all classes are in fact participating in this program and at this time, not all classes are. There was also some discussion about how to send guidelines home about birthday snacks. N. Salamati asked if a concrete list of guidelines could be formulated and shared with parents after approval through SAB. P. Stricher asked if a committee could be created to discuss the issue and come up with recommendations. A comment was made that the existing nutrition committee, perhaps in collaboration with a few other parents could be responsible for developing these guidelines to send out to parents in the second half of the year.

Smarter Balanced Test Preparation

P. Stricher shared that the teachers will meet the first Wednesday of January to start developing a preparation plan for their classes. There is preparation available online for parents and students. After this January meeting homeroom teachers will begin scheduling computer lab time to work with students on practice modules. A concern was expressed about wireless connectivity if chromebooks are used for testing and the fact that the lab has not been updated yet. P. Stricher shared that an IT committee was created to prioritize technology improvements and has met with district tech officials. N. Salamati shared the recommendations of this committee and stressed the need for the lab to be updated soon. Some money was allocated in the school's budget to acquire improved technology. The committee recommended buying 32 Apple Desktops. A question was posed about how to push the district to uphold their commitment to support the school in upgrading the technology. N. Salamati shared that the district staff member responsible for lab maintenance was asked for recommendations and she recommended Apple.

ACTION ITEMS

Progress Toward Goals as Outlined in the Charter: Uniform Enforcement and Compliance

P. Stricher passed out the regulations currently in place. He suggested that the uniform committee meet again and include some students to review the policy and current enforcement. There was some discussion about how to bring all teachers up to speed about enforcement policies. A suggestion was made to also have frequent assemblies with students about uniforms. Concern was expressed about immediate enforcement and the timeline of a committee's review. A question was posed about the opt out option and if there is a time limit for that. J. Davis asked if and when the guidelines might be revised to provide more clarity to parents. P. Stricher shared that he will schedule a uniform committee meeting for January. S. Moore shared that she would like more communication with yard duty personnel about policies and enforcement for both uniforms and the use of personal electronic devices. J. Davis expressed concern about students bringing personal devices from home and asked about the school policy and enforcement. A recommendation was made that a reminder to parents should be sent out when school resumes in January regarding uniform requirements and the school's policy on personal electronic devices.

Homework Club Update

N. Salamati shared that a survey was developed with M. Pappas about how to improve and expand the homework club. The survey was put out to parents and needs to be filled out by this Friday. P. Stricher shared that a challenge is to find French speaking staff to support students in the homework club but that some changes have already been made to the existing structure, such as moving the homework setting to the library during after care.

English Language Arts Assessments

P. Stricher discussed that an Elementary Curriculum Collaborative is working to select an ELA assessment that will be administered online. There are three under consideration: DRA, Scholastic Reading Inventory and Let's Go Learn. The school will have these assessments in place by next year. Some discussion took place about how such assessments can be used by teachers to inform instruction. C. Beurtheret also shared that a district based writing assessment has been used in 1st grade. A concern was expressed about the absence of such assessments across all grades. Concern was also expressed about the development and implementation of the English Language Arts Curriculum in the upper grades. Parents present at the meeting expressed a desire for more communication from teachers about curriculum, homework, and expectations. Some discussion took place about how to foster more collaboration

between English and French teachers on curriculum and to work toward improvement of ELA in the upper grades. P. Stricher expressed a desire to have a parent meeting to share more concerns. J. Jimenez also asked if the district could support the school more in training or coaching English Language Arts teachers in the unique and demanding job of English Language Arts teacher at SRFACS. It was also suggested that a meeting with Pascal regarding this issue should establish specific goals for improvement and instruction in Common Core standards that will be addressed within a specific timeline and include follow up.

Additional Comments

No additional comments

Meeting End

Meeting scheduled end: 7 PM

Meeting actual end: 7:45

Next Meeting

Next Meeting Location: SRFACS library

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday January 13, 2015

Next Meeting Time: 5 PM