

Santa Rosa French-American Charter School – School Advisory Board (SAB)



SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: February 27, 2013

Meeting Location: SRFACS – Room 16

Recorded By: Emmanuelle Benefield

1 ATTENDANCE

Brian Benefield
Emmanuelle Benefield
Jennifer Schwinn
Pascal Stricher
Clemence Spita
Marina Bertrand
Michelle Custer-Topai
Steve Craig
Jon Custer-Topai
Kathleen Helleskov

2 MEETING START

Meeting Schedule Start: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Actual Start: 6:08 p.m.
Meeting Scribe: Emmanuelle Benefield

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

S. Craig suggested a revision to the minutes. They were actually omissions rather than revisions. The portion to be struck was indicated on a hard copy of the minutes and passed around to all of the members. M. Custer-Topai made a motion to accept the revisions and B. Benefield seconded. Unanimous approval. A motion to approve the agenda was made by J. Custer-Topai and was seconded by K. Helleskov. Unanimous approval.

4 ACTION ITEMS

Amity feedback from teachers – Impact on younger grades is positive, more so than with the upper grades. It was suggested that advance notice would help the teachers of the upper grades plan. Having interns that aspire to have careers in education would be ideal. There are adjustments to be made in terms of scheduling so that this resource can be optimized. Changes to the schedule have already been made and that process continues. There was a suggestion that interns could spend some one-on-one time with students to address their specific needs. It was pointed out that this requires less planning on the part of teachers, which is a plus.

Earthquake preparedness – S. Craig made a presentation stressing the need to plan for the event of an earthquake. A recent *Press Democrat* article was distributed on the subject. There was a suggestion that P. Stricher contact Jennie Bruneman to inquire about what can be done at the District level. There was a motion to make a formal request to the District to have structural engineers look at the buildings and do a formal assessment. M. Custer-Topai made the motion and J.Custer-Topai seconded. Unanimous approval. S. Craig will write a draft of the letter and forward it to P. Stricher.

Upper grades – P. Stricher had a meeting with Arlen Agapinan regarding the first follow-up item from the last SAB meeting. In that meeting, 7th grade was discussed. P. Stricher spoke regarding the instruction that happens at this level in France. There is to be one hour each of language arts, math, science and world history. P. Stricher said that all of this material can be taught by the French teachers. Geography should be included at this level. The present plan is for two hours of P.E. per week. There was discussion about how best to handle science instruction. One suggestion was to have a full-time science teacher that instructs multiple grades in a dedicated science lab/room. Another suggestion was to better fund the existing teachers because they are capable of teaching the curriculum. P. Stricher stated that the school day will likely be shorter in 2013-14.

Furniture – Will be revisited in March.

Pacing guides – P. Stricher said that he has copies of all of the pacing guides produced by teachers. It was reported that some parents have not received them. In one case, only two of the seven subjects have been received by sixth grade parents. It was suggested that there is a communication gap because the pacing guides have been completed but not received by all parents. There was discussion about how this need for curriculum planning could be applied next year, including taking advantage of the District-hosted teacher websites that are being created now.

P. Stricher will be meeting with A. Agapinan to discuss the schedule for 6th and 7th grades, including hiring specialists for math/science and language arts. P. Stricher hopes to have an update to present at the next SAB meeting.

Accelerated Reader – P. Stricher indicated that it might not be a useful tool in future school years. He suggested an alternative process that will be more analytical, with fewer multiple choice questions, for example. There will be more complex texts given to students as the

school progresses. The question of funding AR was raised and it was suggested that parents would likely be motivated to donate funds for this purpose. There was a discussion about presenting AR to teachers so that they can see if it is a viable tool for their classrooms. There was general agreement that, after learning about the program, some teachers may elect to use AR and some may not. P. Stricher will contact someone he knows at Renaissance Learning and try to schedule a presentation to teachers before the end of the year.

SCOE resource for books - P. Stricher met with Michael Powell of the SCOE Media Center. It is a potential resource, but it is more likely to be considered for next year. Michael did not mention the science kit, and P. Stricher will call him to learn more.

Status of Parent survey summary – J. Custer-Topai and P. Stricher have not had a chance to meet but will plan a meeting soon. A draft of the summary letter will be sent and SAB members will be given 48 hours to review before it goes out to parents.

Smart goals based on survey results – Top priorities are rigorous academics and the lunch program outlined in the charter. P. Stricher pointed out that the result of a recent meeting is to have the District kitchen prepare lunches for our school. There would be a dedicated chef and two helpers. He stated that the top priority is the food itself, and that the other pieces will come. It was noted that one critical challenge is how to handle the cleaning of the dishware. J. Custer-Topai will ask the Nutrition Committee for a scope of project so we have a clearer idea of the costs involved. There was a suggestion that P. Stricher contact Jennie Bruneman regarding the possibility of a shade structure in the breezeway, outdoor hand-washing stations, as well as larger furniture in-class for the upper grade students.

School uniforms – P. Stricher spoke about the requirement that there is a need to have a minimum number of parents vote. There was talk about having this vote the first week in April. If approved, a uniform committee would be formed to determine the colors. The uniforms would be instituted for the 2013-2014 school year. A point was made about the difference between uniforms and apparel that could be worn after school hours. It was suggested that the ballots go home with the report cards and that there be only one vote per family. Red paper was suggested as a good color for the ballot because it cannot be copied. It was also noted that uniforms cannot be made mandatory regardless of

the outcome of the vote. P. Stricher will talk to the District about this process and determine the next steps.

Report on enrollment results. 197 applications received. There will be five new classes, including four kindergarten classes. There will be two second and two third grade classes. New students who do not speak French will not be accepted for grades four through seven. The thought for populating 88 spots for kindergarten is to build the base of a pyramid, allowing for attrition as students move through the grades.

5 MEETING END

Meeting Schedule End: 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Actual End: 9:30 p.m.

6 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Location: SRFACS Library