

SSC Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

3:30 p.m.

1. Call the Meeting to Order

- 1.1. 3:32 PM by Ms. Ridgeway

2. Welcome & Introductions

- 2.1. Today's Secretary: Allison McMath (Teacher)
- 2.2. Present: Lilian Amavisca (Parent), Allison McMath (Teacher), Madison Biddle (Student), Victoria Lee (Student), Noelle Dionne (Student), Robin Ridgeway (Administration), Maria Lee (Parent), Jasmine Choi (Teacher)
- 2.3. Absent: Olivia Avila (Parent), Daren Estes (Teacher), Marla McDonough (Teacher), Amy Tanner Neely (School Staff)

3. Review Norms

- 3.1. Everyone is able to voice their opinions and is heard.
- 3.2. Support the consensus.
- 3.3. Start and end on time.
- 3.4. RSVP manner of attendance 2 hours prior for the hybrid meeting. Calendar invites will be sent 1 week or earlier for the meeting.

4. Review/Approve Minutes from 9-21-23 Meeting

- 4.1. Ms. Lee motioned to approve the above proposed changes. Ms. Amavisca seconded. The By-Laws were unanimously approved.
 - 4.1.1. Ms. Ridgeway stated Mrs. McDonough is resigning from the School Site Council.

5. Schoolwide Focus

- 5.1. Academics: SBAC Results
 - 5.1.1. Ms. Ridgeway shared the data of the SBAC results as on the state website. Math had more students who did not meet the standard than Language Arts.
 - 5.1.2. Ms. Ridgeway shared the current Math Benchmark scores were not at a passing rate. Teachers are working with students on making sure they understand the questions before responding.
 - 5.1.3. Ms. Lee questioned if our scores could possibly be due to COVID. Ms. Ridgeway responded that this could be, and is a current trend in education, but Benton is still not comparable in scores to the other La Mirada Middle School.
 - 5.1.4. Ms. Ridgeway also stated attendance could be a large factor in Benton having lower test scores.
 - 5.1.5. Ms. Lee stated that she would not like to see Benton return to a standard schedule so students can have the variety elective options available. She expressed that having this program is part of what makes Benton the school that it is.
 - 5.1.6. Madison Biddle stated at the Expo a parent mentioned Benton should have a zero period to aid working parents.

5.2. School Culture: Panorama Survey Results

- 5.2.1. Ms. Ridgeway reviewed our decrease in school belonging since the Spring of 2023. Ms. Ridgeway stated as a staff teachers are reviewing the questions. One of the wonderings is if students are understanding the questions being asked.
- 5.2.2. Ms. Amavisca inquired if Benton should have a “Buddy Bench” to help students who are not connected. Ms. Ridgeway and Ms. Choi stated that the Wellness Center can help as well with students who need additional support socially.
- 5.2.3. Madison Biddle shared the WEB program can also be a support to 6th grade students. Ms. Ridgeway would like to see WEB expanded with more activities to support 6th grade students.

5.3. Attendance

- 5.3.1. Ms. Lee asked if we are still doing perfect attendance awards monthly. Ms. Ridgeway stated that we are and a lucky student won an Uber Eats lunch for 2, as well as other prizes are being awarded to students with exemplary attendance.
- 5.3.2. Ms. Lee asked if parents are being called as to why students are absent. Ms. Ridgeway stated no, and this is simply due to manpower.
- 5.3.3. Ms. Lee inquired if teachers could possibly aid in talking with students and parents about attendance. She wished parents had more access to teachers and that Back To School was longer. She also stated she would like to see more about expectations of students rather than teacher personal information.
- 5.3.4. Ms. Ridgeway will give teachers specific instructions about what to cover in Back To School Night presentations, discuss with teachers about possibly making Back To School Night longer, and having paperwork available for parents.

6. Calendar Updates

- 6.1. Benton Showcase 12-12-23, Tuesday 5:30PM - 7:30PM
- 6.2. Next Meeting Agenda: Review of School Safety Plan
- 6.3. Next SSC Meetings: January 18th, February 22nd, April 11, May 30th

7. New Business

- 7.1. Exemplary School Designation with Arts School Network cost: \$675
 - 7.1.1. Annual Organizational Membership \$450
 - 7.1.2. Award Application \$225 (every 4 years)
 - 7.1.2.1. Mrs. McMath explained this exciting award opportunity for Benton, and believes Benton will qualify to received this nationally recognized designation.
- 7.2. Mural of California Exemplary Arts Program
 - 7.2.1. Location?
 - 7.2.1.1. Ms. Ridgeway said she is looking to possibly put the mural on the bricks at the front of the school, by the MPR.

8. Public Input

- 8.1. None at this time.

9. **Motion to Adjourn the Meeting by Ms. Lee. Mrs. Madison Bittle. The motion was unanimously approved. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35PM.**