

SIC Minutes 3/21/2024

SIC Members in attendance: Genie Brainerd, Michelle Comunale, Elizabeth Simonis, John Simonis, Robert Sabota, Melissa Pender, Renee Roberts

4:29-4:30 Call to order and Pledge

4:31-4:32 Mrs. Brainerd reviewed February's minutes. A specific issue was discussed and decided to strike from the minutes due to inaccuracy. Mrs. Brainerd moved to approve minutes.

4:32-4:47 Mrs. Pender shared details of the Principal's report. Cognia certification will take place on Monday. Maybe up to six weeks before we find out if CES receives the STEM certification. It was part of our previous 5-year plan. Mrs. Pender shared that we will create a brochure in the same format as previously developed; it will be shared with parents and sent to the state department. We have until the end of next month to finalize. The updated brochure includes: family and community involvement (including Early Act, gardening initiative, and read-a-thon as new initiatives), Interim performance goals, SIC members (will give Mrs. Guida the option to be included or not), Our School's achievements (added Blue Ribbon award, District TOY, District Assistant-Principal of the year, and other accolades), About our School (added purposeful play pre-kindergarten and project Based Learning), SIC Goals, SC Ready scores (will be added), and Innovative Learning & Resources (removed Artsonia, but showcased areas of extra-curricular opportunities). Mrs. Pender explained the distinction of an Academic Distinction for Leader in Me school. She also explained that we have to make this brochure available publicly by April 30, 2024. Mr. Sabota asked for details about Honor Choir – Mrs. Pender and Mrs. Roberts explained the details of this district-wide program.

4:47-5:00 Mrs. Pender shared the details regarding the parent survey. A total of 285 surveys were received. 98.6% of parents felt that their children felt successfully academically. Mrs. Pender shared that it is concerned that some of the data is inaccurate (people answered questions that don't pertain to them). She mentioned that we could send home specific surveys (i.e. speech, ML) to survey parents of students who receive specialized services. Committee decided to send home a specific survey for ML learners only. Mrs. Pender explained that we will share comments at our next meeting. Committee decided to eliminate the *no* data of the "Is technology beneficial" question on the survey.

5:00-5:04 Mr. Sabota asked for clarification on how the percentages were calculated on the SIC survey report. Mrs. Pender clarified the process and showed the data charts. She explained how the comments help to better our practices across the board in our school community.

5:05-5:07 Mrs. Pender suggested we begin editing the format of the brochure. She asked if the committee agrees with the data that is reported; committee agreed and we will share feedback on the brochure at our next meeting. Roberts shared that we need to have consistent formatting. Mrs. Pender said that she will edit grammatically and will email everyone an updated copy for review.

5:07-5:08 Mrs. Pender shared that a community member (Dr. Webster) heard about our gardening initiative and would like to provide citrus trees and other resources in the future.

5:08-5:25 Mrs. Brainerd shared about her experience in researching her subject area for the Passport Project initiative. She opened the floor for others to share. Mrs. Comunale shared that she is trying to keep craft ideas cost-effective but is concerned about providing materials. Mrs. Simonis shared the process for games/holidays. Mrs. Roberts shared that she and Ms. Kabel are finding books that are available on our digital Destiny library system so that the stories are readily available for our teachers. Mrs. Pender shared that they are trying to find recipes that have ingredients that are readily available so that parents will be encouraged to make with their children at home. They are providing a main dish recipe, as well as a snack recipe – things that would be enticing for students and easy for parents. Mrs. Pender shared the idea that once our initiative is up and running, we would plan a multicultural event in the future for students to have a “tasting.” All of the recipes will be in pdf form. Mr. Saboda shared that he has developed three different landmark options to provide the teacher; the teacher can then research these landmarks to expound upon.

Mrs. Pender explained that we considered military involvement, countries represented in our district, and a global variety. Each grade level will study a country on three different continents. Mrs. Pender also explained that there is a Leader in Me school in each country represented – in the future, classes may pursue zoom, pen pal, video sharing, etc. between other Leader in Me schools. If technology help is needed, the administration is available to help.

5:25-5:29 Mrs. Brainerd reported on the joint SIC meeting. She reported that she did not agree with the way the calendar was developed, but it was not on the agenda. The main issue discussed was the problem of cell phones in school. Teachers must deal with problems due to students using phones during the school day. There will be some research on what action to take – “jamming” cell signals, holding places for phones, pouches for students to keep the phone with them but unable to be used during the school day, etc. Some schools have instituted programs to help with this issue, so Dr. Rodriguez mentioned that BCSD will be exploring options. Our administration was not present due to a special event in which some of our students were recognized.

5:29 – meeting was adjourned.