

Equity Working Group

Wed, Jan 16 2019; 10am-11am; Ed Center rm 217

Present: Maggie Schmidt, Kathy Shields, Andrea Steenstrup, Christine Dutt, Orla Higgins-Haverill, Kerry Prasad

Minutes:

Update on 1/14 SC discussion (Kathy Shields)

EWG Members in attendance- Kathy, Andrea, Christine

In general, SC seems to be in favor of pooling in some fashion; those who hadn't seen the numbers before were appalled to see them

Ruthanne Fuller said she was very upset by the issue now that she is very aware of the detail; She would like to find some way to raise up those schools that are at the bottom

The SC meeting is recorded on Newtv archive; look for roughly 8:10

Brainstorming in relation to our EWG mission:

People in the community have already suggested ideas for pooling and/or achieving Equity

- maybe we can put these forward to PTO leadership; also have

-Ask in the Survey/ Focus Groups: "Do you have a suggestion to address equity and PTO spending and create more equitable opportunities? "

Some of the ideas we have heard:

1. Enrichment fee for each child in district- \$80 per student
 - a. Con: NPS does not want to charge fees
2. Separate the enrichment fund from community-building fund
3. Every PTO gives a percentage to meet the Cap
4. Allow schools to spend to set amount on Curricular Related Spending; any money over that, they have to put something into a pool; ie- for every dollar you spend over 80, you have to put \$1 or \$.50 into centralized pool
 - a. Con: That does not incentivize fundraising
5. For CRS, you get to decide how much you spend to a central fund, but all you can spend in crs is your share of that fund divided evenly on a pp basis across the district
 - a. everyone gets same pps across district
 - b. you commit an amount to put in

Each school has different fundraising- capacity and ability; some do big fund-raiser every other year; some so lots all year long

-very independent schools, allow for independence to continue

Maybe there should be a cap on ALL spending

Fundraise as much as you want and put extra in pot
Come up with understanding of fund-raising at each school

Input from Community

CAS is going to make a subcommittee to address Equity from their perspective

Maybe we should change our language and talk about a “central fund” ; the term “Pooling” is vague, the word is confusing

Do we have a dollar amount for Curricular spending? Should we include tech?—What is our goal? Maybe our is not as insurmountable if we give a specific dollar amount- it seems easier to reach, less vague than “pool.”

We are missing a teacher voice- Survey to teachers possibly?

What are our Goals?

\$80 per pupil for curricular-related spending?

Is our goal to make up difference? Or to raise the full \$80?

Revised Focus Group questions:

2 members chosen by each school principal

A. Do you give us permission to audio record this session?

1 What is your understanding of the Equity policy and what are your feelings about it? DO you think the majority of your school community knows about the Equity Policy and the Equity Guidelines?

2 Does your PTO dedicate too much, too little, or the right amount of time to fundraising?

3 Do you currently feel that you are able to raise the money you need to fund everything you want to accomplish at your school?

4 What do you view as the advantages and disadvantages of each elementary school contributing in some fashion to a centralized fund that will pay for curriculum-related items that fall under the equity cap?

5 What do you view as the advantages and disadvantages of each elementary school contributing in some fashion to a centralized fund that will pay for allowed technology spending?

(Note to moderator: In answering question 5, make sure this question gets addressed: How do you think your fundraising ability would be affected if some portion of the funds you raised were shared by elementary schools throughout the city?)

Notes to moderator will be very useful here.

Group	Schools	Date	Time	Moderator	Notes	Room
Elm	Zervas, Angier, MR, Peirce	Tues 2/5	9-10	Kathy S.	Kerry	
Oak	Ward, Countryside, Cabot, Williams	Tues 2/5	9-10	Kathleen	Maggie	
Maple	Underwood, MemSp, Bowen	Thurs 2/7	9-10	Christine	Andrea	
Pine	LE, Franklin, HM, Burr	Thurs 2/7	9-10	Orla	Kerry	

Kathy S will reserve rooms at Ed Center; we will reserve for next week in case of snow days

Orla will contact principals and ask them for recs

Next meeting date: Tues 2/29 Angier, 9am

Christine will

- send out email to set date

- send out email to review Treasurer questions