

2016 Apr 28 - Wildwood SGC meeting.

Attending — Susan Bellak (SB), Laura Quilter (LQ), Nick Yaffe (NY), Kerry Crosby (KC), Kristin Lieber (KL), Elizabeth Devlin (ED)

UPDATES

NY: Plan in place for a family information night about co-teaching.

NY: Asst Principal Linda and Joan Epstein, occupational therapist retiring. 34 applicants for asst principal search, reasonably diverse pool of applicants. Winnowed down to 7 candidates and interviews starting soon. Nick is welcoming suggestions for search committee - contact Joyce. They must be able to commit to attending all interviews.

LQ: Can post on PGO list.

NY: Recent assembly on gender. There will be a final assembly.

AGENDA

Family Survey: Family survey has received 197 responses. KL: Survey needs to clarify whether a survey should be completed for each child, whether all parents/guardians can respond (ie. guardians may have different viewpoints). NY: Will forward any questions to 5 Essentials.

Deeper Learning Focus: NY: The school is benefiting from free guidance from Ron Berger, Expeditionary Learning. We are not an official “expeditionary learning” school. We are seeing benefits in the integrated arts curriculum. Here at Wildwood we’re looking at every unit of study and thinking about how to integrate reading, writing, math skills, and art, and real world integration ... also integrating the idea that “kids are proud” of what they create.

* example : 70-something 3rd / 4th graders having an “arcade day” (carnival) in the library presenting games they created.

2d grade team think about connecting SILTS, SOILS, and PLANTS units and connecting them, and connecting them to the garden.

ED: For example, the district has agreed to decrease the number of ELA (English Language Arts) units to free up teacher time to go deeper.

NY: District supports flexibility in primary instruction of reading. Wildwood has chosen to no longer use Superkids.

LQ: Superkids is an example of curriculum that was of concern to some parents. When considering curricula changes, how can we get meaningful input from parents? Parents have a longitudinal experience that school doesn’t on the effectiveness of strategies.

KC: How to get information from parents beyond the survey. More authentic response, ie detailed focus groups. LQ: Agree. Also tailored surveys can happen without adding to survey fatigue. Small survey, open-ended, would you volunteer for focus group. SB: Getting feedback from specific populations. KC: Timeline – end of school year – how not get lost? LQ will send suggested questions to NY in a googledoc or to Renee directly.

Welcoming Committee: KC: Toni, Susan, Heather, Madeline Charney, Kristin Lieber and KC will meet next week. Plan is that when new family comes, PGO is alerted and new family is contacted. Class parent greets new family. If missing, then assigned to another person. Collect people who would be willing to serve as outreach to people who will speak in another language. Needs a coordinator. Group is reviewing and updating welcoming folder. NY: 60 new families at beginning of year and a few every month. Would need to be galvanized at beginning of year. LQ: Recommends a “Language Map” of students.

Assemblies: More communication about assemblies. Acknowledge it is difficult for parents to leave work. Assemblies are short and out by 9:15. If a ride would be helpful, PGO facilitate ride-sharing. ED: video assembly.

Beyond the Bake Sale Chapter 5 discussion:

Please do survey on pgs 108&109.

Add in a “compact for learning” and academic focus nights.

Next Steps

- KL will send questions from guardians to NY about 5 Essentials survey.
- LQ will send questions for parents about co-teaching model to Renee and NY.
- SGC members: Please complete survey in Beyond the Bakesale pgs 108&109.