

School Governance Council
Wildwood Elementary School
Minutes of the Meeting of Nov. 19, 2013, 3:30pm (Conference Room at Wildwood)

Attending: Nick Yaffe (principal), Susan Bellak (parent & SGC representative), Kristin Lieber (parent), Stacy Feek, Chris Eggemeier (teacher), Ricci Mastorianni (teacher), Kerry Crosby (parent), Laura Quilter (parent)

AGENDA

I. Welcome and introductions.

II. Discussed October meeting and minutes. At that meeting, the group reviewed charter, which says for the SGC to work on (a) School Improvement Plan, (b) advising principal, and (c) budgets. Budgets is not very helpful since budgets are set at the District level.

Note that the group works best when we have specific and concrete tasks to work on — for instance, last year the SGC worked on the school visiting policy and the fundraising policy.

Current tasks (deferred from last meeting): Last spring's Family Survey.

Ricci notes that communicating policy decisions is important; for instance last year's Fundraising Policy could have been better communicated to staff / teachers.

III. Establishing group norms & electing co-chair.

Co-Chairs: Nick Yaffe and Kerry Crosby.

Group Norms:

Process & Communication norms: Communication within the group should be open & honest, and respectful of one another's time & focus; assume good faith; stay on topic. We should set an agenda, and take notes.

Functioning & Output norms: We should be transparent and communicative, making our group information widely available, and sharing outcomes. Establishing "next steps" and "action items" help stay effective.

III. Family Survey

Kristin Lieber had reviewed and summarized the results. Summary of discussion and Lieber's analysis:

Wildwood scored well on a) teachers respect children (100% were good or in the

middle); b) displaying the work of students; and c) students enjoying school.

Wildwood could improve on: a) school preparing children for next year (15% were negative; 30% were in middle; 50% well or extremely well); b) teachers & families having opportunity to meet (34% negative); c) workshops for families (32% negative); d) communicating interesting classroom approaches to parents; d) “challenged” not rated well; e) “school reports to parents about student progress” (28% disagreed [25%]/strongly disagreed [3%]).

Notes:

- This is a district-wide survey, and we can give feedback on poorly worded questions; perhaps we could also have a school-specific section.
- Challenged question was confusingly worded
- Can / will people come to parent education events?
- Communication from teachers to parents is expected to be monthly at a minimum, but it varies widely across teams. There will be an upcoming evening event on the “zones of regulation”. This can be a topic for the School Improvement Plan (SIP). There are 2 annual report cards; conferences with protected time-off are scheduled once in the fall.

Next steps & suggestions:

- Review wording of the “challenged” question.
- Consider ways to improve communications from teachers to parents in the School Improvement Plan (SIP).
- Ways of getting more information to parents about what next year entails?
- Ask ARPS to provide the Family Survey to the 7th graders on the preparation issue: Did their kid go to an ARPS elementary school; which school; did they feel prepared.

IV. School Improvement Plan.

- The process is to review last year’s SIP; put a new one together; review; and amend. Nick drafted.
- Discussion of local school variations: Wildwood is focusing on the Growth Mindset and Zones of Regulation more than other schools.
- Differentiation issues - Nick & Elizabeth Pretel (math curriculum leader) are working to improve math differentiation.
- District is moving away from “Code of Conduct” and “Consequences” like taking away recess; instead solutions like communicating about behavior issues to families.
- Aims: Pulling from Family Survey & other discussions, we want to focus on a) supporting teachers; b) communications with parents; c) differentiation (to provide each child what they need); d) help PGO get parent engagement — recent meeting was poorly attended.

V. NEXT STEPS and ACTION ITEMS

- Laura Quilter doing minutes of this meeting
- Nick will send information about the Karen Maps book, *Beyond the Bake Sale*.
- Kristin will send summary of Family Survey

Projects for the Year:

- School Improvement Plan
- Meta-goals: a) strengthening equity; b) strengthening family partnerships; c) challenging all kids; d) concerns about children with disruptive behaviors.