

Minutes of the Feb. 15, 2013 meeting of the Wildwood School Governance Council

Attending: Principal Nick Yaffe, Kristie Stauch-White, Meg Rosa, and Sarah Marshall

1. Kristie reported that members of the PGO and SGC had met to draft comments on the entire Rubrics document (reviewed in part at previous SGC meetings) and would circulate these to the SGC before submitting them to the Superintendent's office. Once that is done, the SGC will identify goals for community and stakeholder engagement to put into the next Wildwood School Implementation Plan (SIP).
2. The Regionalization study and reactions to it were briefly discussed. The SGC may become involved in publicizing the study and anticipated vote. In a side discussion of the declining enrollment at Wildwood and possible opportunities to use classrooms in new ways, a science/math lab room was suggested.
3. The group revisited safety and security improvements. Nick said that the first priority is to better manage vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the side parking lot. The District is developing sign-out procedures for parent pick-up. Substitute teachers will be briefed on safety policies and procedures.
4. There is now a coordinator for translation services in the central office, and this is working well. Also to better integrate non-English-language speakers, the PGO is setting up an international buddy system.
5. Grade-level expectations are being aligned at the District level. Pieces of these documents can be pulled out and communicated to parents, such as booklists by reading level, words that students should reliably spell, handwriting skills, summer reading, etc.
6. Discussion of curriculum prompted additional discussion of the extent to which students at each grade receive information or training in various health, safety, and security topics. Is there coordination or development of these efforts (including DARE, SAFE, and Second Step), across grades and schools, at the District level? The SGC supports enhancing such a program. Teachers are already encouraged to alert parents to discussions of sensitive topics in class. Bullying will receive more attention in the future.
7. A draft of a District-wide homework policy was discussed. It has been reviewed by principals and teachers already. Wildwood's current policies are already reasonably consistent with the draft policy. The SGC noted the inclusion of spelling in the draft policy and felt that this was an area where Wildwood may need some adjustment. In response to a comment that any homework policy must be effectively communicated to all parents and guardians, in every possible language, Nick noted the Parent University effort that helps parents know how school works and what is expected. The group wondered whether PU is held at times convenient for parents working late.
8. The group discussed possible staffing changes to be made next year in light of budget cuts and shifts in enrollment. Nick said the District hopes to add one person to address Steps to Success. At Wildwood, there may be three classrooms at each grade level. Possibly a guidance position will be lost, as well as Spanish instruction. Art, music, and PE staff may each teach four days per week. All these changes are tentative until the final budget is passed.
9. In order to increase structured learning time to meet the required minimum number of hours, the school year (beginning in the fall) is likely to shift to 8:50 am-3:10 pm every day. This decision is not yet final.
10. Meeting adjourned until March 8.