

School Governance Council
Wildwood Elementary School
Minutes of the Meeting of Feb 26, 2015, 3:30pm

Attending: Nick Yaffe (principal), Susan Bellak (parent), Kristin Lieber (parent), Kerry Crosby (parent), Laura Quilter (parent), Stacy Feek (parent), Naihsin Kuo (guidance counselor)

Co-Chairs: Nick Yaffe and Kerry Crosby.

AGENDA

I. Welcome, introductions, Review and approval of last meeting's minutes.

Nick Yaffe shared copies of Karen Mapp's book Beyond the Bake Sale which relates to the group's discussion about improving parental involvement. The superintendent's office is organizing assessments based on the book.

Principal Yaffe gave an update on changes for next year: (1) staffing changes (librarian and K and possible 2nd grade teachers); (2) the school's move to increased use of co-teaching model that will, among other advantages, improve integration of children with special education support needs into the classroom; and, (3) progress is being made on hiring the architectural firm for the feasibility study which will explore three options for Wildwood School. Regarding the upcoming hirings, he emphasized that serving on interview committees are a good opportunity for interested parents to get involved with the school.

The group approved last month's minutes.

II. Vaccination Discussion

Laura Quilter discussed concerns raised to her in the community based on a state report which showed low vaccination rates at Wildwood. The low rate was due to a delay in processing vaccination information. While many forms arrive in the summer, the person who can enter the data begins work at the start of the school year, resulting in delays in data entry. After completing data analysis, the vaccination rate exceeds CDC guidelines. Laura Quilter worked with staff to write an article that communicates information on vaccination rates proactively to the school community. Suggestions from the group to communicate information included: newsletter, minutes, pgo blog, handout at kindergarten registration.

III. Server Discussion

Kerry Crosby raised a concern from the community regarding public servers. Minecraft and other games have public servers which can potentially expose kids to chatting with the public. If kids have home accounts for games with public servers, parents should be aware that they may be able to access those servers at the school. Nick will follow up with Mr. T regarding monitoring public servers.

Nick Yaffe noted that next year, technology will be a shared role between two teachers. Mr. T will take leadership role with district-wide technology initiatives.

III. District Family Survey

Laura led a discussion of the district family survey. Nick said he would like to use the survey earlier because it provides good feedback for the school improvement plan. He said school staff have brainstormed ideas like focus groups and holding events at apartment complexes.

The group discussed concerns that the survey is long. Laura has some ideas about consolidating some questions. Laura Quilter will set up a Google Doc and share it with the group for comments.

Kerry suggested that parent feedback may differ for different grade levels. For example, a parent with students in 2nd and 6th grad could have two very different experiences. It could be valuable to capture that. Nick suggested a question about whether communication at the school been consistent across the grade levels.

The group agreed to look at questions and add comments. Laura will set up a Google Doc and share it with the group for comments.

IV. Family-Friendly Self Evaluation Survey

As mentioned, Nick said the district will lead the schools in some of the process and likely a walk-through. Nick suggests discussing this at the next meeting.

Kerry: agenda for next meeting. The next meeting is on a half-day. Could arrange for childcare. May need to start a little later. Laura will be out of town that day. Continue with survey next meeting. Communication norms/guidelines/vision agenda for later. Kerry Crosby knows an interested person who will be a Wildwood parent next year. As the committee doesn't yet have a community member, could this person join? The group discussed that a rising parent may not be what was intended for the SGC community member.

V. NEXT STEPS and ACTION ITEMS

- Laura Quilter will share a google doc to collect comments on the family survey.
- Nick Yaffe will discuss public server access with Mr. T.
- Please send suggestions for the agenda for the next meeting to Kerry Crosby.
- The next meeting is scheduled for a school half-day. Childcare can be arranged. It may be necessary to start a little later. Laura Quilter will be out of town that day.
- The group will continue with the survey next meeting.
- The group will discuss communication norms/guidelines in a future meeting.