

2015 May 20 - Wildwood SGC meeting.

Attending — Susan Bellak (SB), Laura Quilter (LQ), Nick Yaffe (NY), Kerry Crosby (KC), Kristin Lieber (KL), Chris Eggemeier (CE)

Absent - Stacy Feek.

BUSINESS

* Minutes for last meeting not yet available; will review and approve by email.

AGENDA / NEW BUSINESS

Readathon . KC: Readathon has been a fundraiser. Susan Wells, Joyce Gooden, & Kerry. Have been working on a bookmobile. Meeting w/ Friends of Jones Library on June 1.

Traditionally Readathon has made \$3000 each year for library to buy books, which substituted for historic budget cuts. District decided to take away the fundraising part to deal with equity issues and to provide libraries an additional \$4000 each to make up for loss of funds.

* option to donate.

* MILLION MINUTE CHALLENGE. Instead of money a total number of minutes read. If every child at Wildwood reads for 30 minutes a day for 70 days of summer we would get to 1 million.

** 2100 minutes / summer = 476 kids. Note, WW does not have that many kids; if 6th graders are discounted then maybe 350 kids.

* Can we get rid of the ice cream party & make it a whole-school party instead. CE confirms it is odd to have some kids leaving class in the middle of the day.

* Registration? Sounds fine as incentive / promotion.

* Comments — Very few barriers, when considering bookmobile etc. NY notes that CE has gotten all 6th graders to love reading. CE has statistics about benefits of reading over the summer.

* Ideas

** book-themed party.

** extra recess instead of party?

** certificates for all participants

** how to reward kids who participate

** parents reading too. Benefit of having family reading books instead of screens.

GEO BEE —

* NY: Geography Bee. January Geo Bee, 4th-6th grades. Wildwood has a 20-year tradition of doing National Geography Bee, unlike most other ARPS schools. Educators have looked at Geo Bee for a number of years and said it's weighted, so that privileged kids are always doing well. Because tied to national Geography Bee it's arcane & difficult topics that are not really about what we want to teach. Carolyn Miller (a Wildwood parent & Interim Director of the Curriculum) & NY thought about having a group to study this. Written test ahead of time; only top-ranking kids on stage. Winner

of last 12 years all kids of academic parents in the community.

- * LQ — Benefits of competition and that non-athletic kids don't learn those skills.
- * SB — Problems for kids having to sit through it.
- * KC — What are we offering kids in the meantime, while we figure out “something better” that is more equitably accessible, more curricularly aligned, etc.?
- * NY — Science Fair transformed — now done at school. We want more academic activities and academic competitions. But maybe this one doesn't really do what we want.
- * Message: We are studying a new form of the Geo Bee to align with our academic goals in geography, and eliminate some of the arbitrary and “testing” and rote memorization aspects of the Geo Bee.

FAMILY SURVEY - It's going out. Our edits were incorporated in some ways but couldn't be incorporated fully. Some (6) Wildwood-specific questions inserted.

- * KL — 4-point scale requires choice of positive or negative, while 5-point scale doesn't. SurveyMonkey study.
- * KL — Possible to have a raffle at end of survey.
- * how to incentivize? They will try to do the SurveyMonkey as well as print.
- * results by next meeting — June 17.

SGC next year - NY is not sure what this agenda item is for; will table until next time.

Parent Partnership Update / Focus Group Update. [from *Beyond the Bake Sale*]

- * KL - Instructions could have been a little more clearly laid out during the day. She was initially put off by having college students facilitated but eventually felt it was okay, because a little more neutral / third-party.
- * NY - That data will also be here by next meeting.
- * NY - A lot of ideas from *Beyond the Bake Sale*. One additional idea: checklist of ideas about race, class, & cultural differences — pp. 146-149.
- * KL - Is there a process to teach all staff / teachers how to pronounce students' first and last names?
- * *Speak Up at School : How to Respond to Everyday Prejudice, Bias and Stereotypes: A Guide for Teachers.* publication from “Teaching Tolerance.” Also available as a PDF for teachers at <http://www.tolerance.org/publication/speak-school> . For teachers to deal with teachable moments around prejudice, bias, etc. Similar version available for parents called “Beyond the Golden Rule”; also available as a PDF at <http://www.tolerance.org/publication/beyond-golden-rule> .
- * NY - Wildwood is uniquely diverse in multiple ways, with no one dominant race or language. So lots of possibilities for all of us. We are a school where kids can have interracial friendships but without connections between the parents it will tend to fall away.
- * NY — Ride-shares could come up through Welcome Wagon, etc.

PGO meeting - May 26. With Jasper bringing presentations.

Jasper Lieber & Jeanne Hardy & Madeleine Charney doing the multicultural fair.

Meeting adjourned. Notes taken by LQ.