

Wildwood School Governance Council
Meeting Minutes from 1/4/11
Prepared by Katie McDermott

Present: Katherine Appy, Therese Chehade, Christine Gray-Mullen, Katie McDermott, Julie Rivera, Meg Rosa, Nick Yaffe

Provision of child care at SGC meetings

Discussed whether or not it's feasible to have children in the office during the meeting, or in the library or cafeteria after the building is open, and decided that it would be better to explore the possibility of paying somebody to supervise children during the meetings.

A para might be able to do this for an hourly wage.

Christine will approach PGO about whether they can provide funds.

Ways of finding out how families and students feel about how the transition is going

We discussed two principle ways of doing this: a survey that goes home with report cards, and a meeting or meetings at Wildwood and perhaps at alternate locations closer to where families live.

Survey

Nick prefers that we gather information that can be used going forward, rather than retrospective information (like how people feel about the process of forming classes for this year).

We discussed drafts of possible survey questions. Feedback is due to Katie by next week (January 11) so that she can revise in time for the survey to go out in report cards. Nick will find a copy of the Crocker Farm survey and also will explore how to pay for copies to be made. The survey will need to be translated, at least into Spanish, and possibly administered over the phone to Spanish-speaking families.

Events

Julie reported that the aesthetics team would like to carry the Mark's Meadow tradition of a multicultural fair forward, into an event in March that would showcase that team's work, possibly in a format like "First Night," where the audience circulates among different things going on at the same time.

We also talked about continuing the "family pictures" done at Mark's Meadow.

There should definitely be one "feedback" event at Wildwood, and one that takes place in Spanish. Other possible locations are Village Park (they have a function room), North Amherst or North Village (possibly at the Lutheran church) and the Boulders in South Amherst, although they don't have a function room. We need to figure out what times of day work best for parents in different situations.

Nick will check into what the superintendent's office might already be planning as ways of hearing feedback about how the transition is going, to make sure that we don't duplicate or conflict with their efforts.

Issues for next meeting?

Budgeting, since this group has a budget advisory function.

We also need to make sure we're complying with the latest version of state law on open meetings;
Christine will check on this.