

SLT Meeting Minutes 10/13/2011, 3:30-5:15 pm

Attendance: Vicki Arbitrio,
Bob Bender, Rachel Cerlen,
Lucie Holman, Dara Genesi, Doris Kreibich,
Serena Mueller, Deborah Osborne, Sami Plotkin,
Kristin Sewell, Zoya Simakhodskaya

❖ **Sept. 15, 2011 SLT Meeting Minutes approved**

❖ **Recap of Welcome Potluck (Sept. 16, 2011)**

- All agree we must address leftover food that is wasted after potluck dinners
 - We could prepackage leftovers and invite families to take home;
 - Can it be sent to food kitchens? Some kitchens accept food, some do not;
 - When we plan the June potluck, we will arrange in advance; If a soup kitchen can be found that will accept our donation, 2-4 people will be assigned ahead of time to deliver the food at end of night.

- Our effort to be biodegradable was good, but not a complete success
 - Our biodegradable goods were mixed in with plastic items;
 - We can make a better attempt next time at signage, but we recognize that this is difficult to police and there will always be some non-biodegradable items mixed in;
 - The city will put our bags in landfill with everything else; nevertheless, if we put all our green goods into biodegradable bags, most of what we are sending out will degrade, which is a step in the right direction.

- We miss Christmas lights—for their light and for the festive look
 - We will try again next time with lights, this time hopefully testing the setup well in advance, with a plan to hold up the heavy strands of lights; in addition, they have to be taken down that night.
 - PS 40 has a space with permanent Christmas lights—Could we do it as well? They would have to be very high; probably too costly/ambitious for now.
 - There are 2 lights out in the yard that are occasionally on—We will find out how to get these turned on during an event.
 - We will need to purchase some lights—keep an eye out for after Christmas sales.

❖ **Math Mac 'n Cheese**

- Content
 - Content has been planned by Bob and Serena; The presenter will

introduce parents to Problem Solver—math problems that are currently being implemented in every grade and used at the end of units (tasks that test knowledge and which are similar to state tests kids will see beginning in 2014); Parents will get to participate, experience solving their own problem, learn the 10 strategies their kids are learning.

- Rather than separating them, we will invited K and new to the presentation in the auditorium as well.
- In addition, K and new families will be invited to a Curriculum Coffee, at which they will see the continuum we introduced to parents last year during Math Mac 'n Cheese.
- We will post all of the materials online and let people know they can view and print it on the PS11 website; We will also post grade-specific sample problems online.

❖ **Logistics**

➤ Locations

- One program for all parents in auditorium
- Kids will have to be split up; K-2 in cafeteria and 3-5 upstairs doing math games (in gym?)

➤ Communication—Poster, email, flyer:

- Parents as problem-solving partners;
- New ways to get your kids to be critical thinkers;
- General overview of these strategies across grades;
- (At event we will announce Curriculum Coffee for K/new families)
- We will have a blast out and a poster up in time for Fall Festival.

➤ Food

- We will not have chef Cynthia making the mac and cheese; There is a good chance Una (the kitchen supervisor) will cook it. If not, we will each make a pan and we can use the warmer in the kitchen to heat.
- We will order and cut apples.

➤ Setup: in cafeteria at 5:30

➤ Feedback

- We will prepare a survey—
 - How effective was this workshop in improving your understanding of your child's mathematical learning?
 - How did you find out about this workshop?
 - Brief description of our Community Goals for this year (Communication—SLT workshops, Curriculum Coffees, Teacher Newsletters, etc.; Health and Nutrition—Farm Market, WITS program, Garden, etc.) How well are we meeting these goals?

➤ Due to our growing number of families, we will probably have to start doing these events in split groups.

❖ **CEP**

➤ No further action must be taken at this time.

❖ **Community Goals**

➤ Communication—

- Survey at Math Mac 'n Cheese will be useful to us in determining our success thus far, as well as in reiterating our goals to parents;
- The new website is a huge success; there were 21,000 hits in September.
- Teachers newsletters are now posted monthly on the website; Some teachers send these out directly as well, some send an email with a link to the website;
- We want parents to visit the website; Perhaps a link to each teacher's page could be a permanent part of that teacher's email signature?

➤ Health and Nutrition

- New lunch menu—Overall, the new menu is a big success—The kids are getting fresher healthier food, and they like it better!
- Issues to work out in the kitchen:
 - Chef Cynthia Tomasini; is giving 125%, but she's getting a lot of road blocks from staff; Kitchen staff is having a hard time embracing the new menu;
 - Staff is overtaxed—same number of staff as last year, but 200 more kids;
 - They are not ordering enough or not the right foods; not enough food by the time 3rd and 5th graders get there; Parents have complained that there is not enough food;
 - We need a plan to get through to the kitchen staff, get them on board; as Cynthia phases out, they will need to take over responsibility for preparing the new menu—How can we encourage the staff to accept change?
 - ◆ One class a month could do something for the kitchen staff to show appreciation for them;
 - ◆ Continue referring to them by their names;
 - ◆ PTA Food committee should complain to kitchen;
 - ◆ Can we change their uniform even in a small way;
 - ◆ Present staff members a certificate?
 - ◆ Staff members are not currently on website--We can add them.

- ◆ Parents could participate at lunch and be champions of the salad bar.
 - ◆ Staff needs to see this as a serious school initiative. Serena will draft a letter to the kitchen staff from SLT, cc-ing Cynthia Ransom and her supervisor (Can also use this to reiterate change to parents); Letter will address staff members by their individual names; It will thank them, and let them know how important it is that our kids have been getting healthier, more delicious food!
- Becoming Nut Free–
- Lindsay Wilson on the PTA Exec. Board is going to send Bob samples of letters from other schools asking the parents to embrace a peanut-free school. Bob will draft the letter and send to SLT for input before he sends it out to parents.
 - We can support parents by offering ideas for alternatives to nut-butters.
- ❖ **Early literacy**
- Lucie met with Linda Incantalupo–It has been difficult to locate parents with children that age who are in need of this program—Linda has sent a lot of emails, has not had much response.
- Linda is ready to go with the program, but needs 8-10 kids; the first meeting is set for Tuesday Nov. 1st at 9:30 am. We will seek out members of our community who are connected to the communities we want to target; We will flyer the school, either by email or by home folder.
- ❖ **March Workshop**
- We have lost funding for Architecture and Arroz con Pollo March 20th—The program was very successful last year and we would like to continue it; Karen McKinnon, last year’s organizer, is attempting to find alternate funding. If she is not successful, we will plan an alternate event.
- ❖ **Rezoning**
- On Tuesday the 11th, a hearing was held at PS 11 by the CECD2 regarding the DOE’s current rezoning proposal for all of the west side of downtown. None of the other schools involved are in favor of the rezoning. In addition, the opening of the Foundling school slated for 2014 makes rezoning now seem premature. It is unclear whether rezoning in our area will go through; if it is not approved by December, it will not happen this year. The next hearings are in November, dates TBA.