

## Thunderboard Minutes

December 8, 2016

4-5:30 pm

THES Library

**In attendance:** Kim Marie O'driscoll, Beth Gehrlach, Carl Fusaris, Lisa Robertson, Julie Ulrich, Carrie Turner, Cesar Benavides, Mary Janecek-Friedman, Ken Zarafis, Daniella Licon, Will Myers, Tonya Penney, Wes Paparone

### I. Welcome & Introductions

### II. Approve minutes from last meeting (moved by L. Robertson & seconded by K Zarafis)

### III. Community Input

- A. PTA approved the request for a 4-way stop sign at Live Oak and Alta Vista
- B. PTA will write a letter in approval for the city

### IV. PTA Updates

- A. New Fundraising Chair: Jonna Ball
- B. Tamalada & Cultural Fest were successful and led to new Spanish students being interested in THES
- C. New event--Sunday, January 8 "Welcome Back" party 1-3 pm
  - 1. Art activity for children
  - 2. Potluck
  - 3. Introduction of new mural with the artist
- D. PTA is paying for a new laminator
- E. Mini grants were approved
- F. Recruitment (Dani D.)
  - 1. Kinder round-up
  - 2. Tours continue thru February
  - 3. Ad in "Life in Travis Heights"
  - 4. Flyers distributed to day cars

### V. Reports

#### A. Review Action Items/Updates from last meeting

- 1. Attendance & absenteeism--January newsletter will inform parents about scheduling appointments later in the day. Include information about attendance on the website.
- 2. School rating will come out in January (based solely on STARR) and will be shared in the newsletter.
- 3. We are proud of how our school shines in the areas of Urban Schools (from Dr. Cruz)
  - a) Collaborative
  - b) Communicative
  - c) Connected
  - d) Creative & critical thinking
  - e) Culturally proficient
- 4. Reporting of Lexile on report card--Teachers have requested using DRA instead of Lexile level for lower levels. Grade levels will determine what is most useful and appropriate and will share with parents.
- 5. Early release for professional development -- postponed

6. Language of announcements--W. Paparone reported that announcements have been very short and teachers' are directed to consult the whiteboard for important information (rather than thru announcements).
- B. **Facility Planning** - L. Robertson shared that the consulting firm made shared options last week with the public. They looked at facilities, technology, and instruction. THES is grouped with Linder, Becker, and Dawson. THES is in good shape because of all the work that has been completed over the last few years. Linder and Becker will have work done in the next 2-5 years. Dawson is being considered for re-purposing.
  - C. **Hiring** - L. Robertson shared that 2nd and 3rd grade positions have been filled. Interviews will be held for the ½ time counselor position. All candidates are bilingual and have 20 years or more of experience.
  - D. **Recess Policy & AISD** - K. Zarafis shared that the district has put in place a requirement of 30 minute recess period (including transitions), not to be taken away for behavior or homework.
  - E. **PBL & AISD: Promoting THES as Trailblazers** - K. Zarafis pointed out that THES was a trailblazer in learning about and implementing PBL and AISD is pushing forward at this time. He posed the idea that AISD can use THES as a model school for PBL and Blended Learning. C. Turner shared her discussions with district leaders. K. Zarafis suggested that THES needs to “demand” (in a positive way) the acknowledgement of expertise. Wes Paparone, Carrie Turner, Kent Hawes, Ken Zarafis, Will Myers and Tonya Penney are interested in continuing work in helping to in this effort. Beth Gehrlach suggested we continue to acknowledge the use of SEL in PBL.
  - F. **Advocacy Team** - Led by Colin Clark and attended by Daniella Licon. K. O'Driscoll & D. Licon shared that the team is providing support to Oak Creek Village meeting, providing support to immigrant families in acquiring citizenship, holding a meeting for refugee families to familiarize them with the school, and providing support to Travis Park residence regarding mold in apartments.
  - G. **THES/AISD & Growing Equity**- Meetings have been arranged here at school in January that are specifically geared towards our refugee parents so that they understand the services , facilities and expectations here at THES. The last goal is to establish THES as a neutral space to learn and thrive and hopefully to model appropriate interactions and dialogue.
  - H. **February Retreat Proposal** - K. O'Driscoll shared that Saturday, Feb. 4th, is a time for reflection as we move into year 5 of the charter. K. Zarafis and W. Meyer both have contacts who might help lead the meeting. K. O'Driscoll shared that information has been gathered from the community and families of THES to consider in the work at the retreat. She requested that the teachers be surveyed to gather information and provided the following three questions to guide that survey. L. Robertson agreed that these questions will be shared at a team meeting and via survey monkey:r
    1. What do you love about what is happening at THES?
    2. What are you missing to have the school/be the teacher you want?
    3. What resources are needed to fill the gaps?

## VI. **Upcoming events (5 min)**

- A. Austin Interfaith Events: District 10 Get out the Vote (12/3) and Election Day GOTV Walk/Call Party (12/13). For details, visit <http://www.austininterfaith.org/events>
- B. SRCC: Monday, 12/5 @ 7:15 (Life in the City United Methodist -205 E. Monroe)

C. Advocacy Team Meeting, Wednesday, 12/7 from 5:30-6:30 in library.

VII. **Goals for 2016-2017 (30 mins)**

A. **Recognition from AISD as an innovative school & Our 4 Pillars Now**

-Cathy Lippincott, Mary Friedman, Kim O'Driscoll

B. **Academics/Funding**

-Master Schedule to support teacher planning

-Master Schedule to consider adding Spanish/PE daily rotation

-Creating clear policies for campus: Homework, Recess and Wow

-Sustainable funding/mentoring (training DL, PBL, BL, SEL; PSS, technology, software)

---- Julie Ulrich. Will Meyer,

C. **School Climate/Relationship building**

-Support for teachers; Support for students/families; Special needs Population

-Open, supportive, and safe communications among individuals: Admin/Teachers, Teachers/Admin, Teachers/Parents, Parents/Teachers, children/teachers

-Supporting SEL schoolwide; Mindful practices (*moment of silence*)

---Beth Gerlach, Daniela De Jong, Kim O'Driscoll

D. **Cross-cultural outreach**

-What resources are in Austin? Refugee services in north Austin for Arabic bilingual, Arabic college students (St. Ed's, UT).

-Are there communication Apps? What are other schools doing to enhance cultural relations (e.g., Matthews, Hart, Doss)?

---Tonya Penney, Daniella Licon, Wes Paparone, Rosa Rostro, Melissa Bowman

VIII. **Next Steps/Action Items and Agenda Items for next meeting (5 min)**

A. **Action Items**

1. Lisa Robertson will share advice to parents about scheduling appointments later in the day through the January Newsletter.
2. Lisa Robertson & Carrie Turner will survey teachers in preparation for February Retreat
3. Will Myers & Ken Zarafis will reach out to find help with February Retreat
4. Mary Friedman agreed to invite teachers who are familiar with our history to the February Retreat.
5. Wes Paparone, Carrie Turner, Kent Hawes, Ken Zarafis, Will Myers and Tonya Penney will work as a committee on communicating with district leadership. (Re: promoting THES as Trailblazers)

B. **Next Meeting:**

1. To be or Not to Be: Universal Breakfast