

Thunderboard Minutes - 9/1/2016

Present: Daniella Licon, Tonya Penney, Kim-Marie O'Driscoll, Beth Gerlach, Willow Benavides, Lisa Robertson, Wesley Paparone, Melissa , Julie Ulrich, Ken Zarifis , Will Myers, Rene Pinchero, Kathy Lipincott, Rosa Rostro, Cesar Benavides

Timing parameters and introduction of parking lot for overflow conversations. Melissa Bowman agreed to be our timer. **Introductions** were made with each member.

Minutes from the May 2016 meeting approved . Melissa moved and Lisa R. made seconded approval .

Community Input: This will be the time for community issues to be addressed by anyone not on the board having a concern. Beth Gerlach shared a request from neighbor for a 4 way stop at Live Oak and Alameda. *Action item*(Gerlach) is to Invite neighbor, Pat Conegliano to next meeting to help address this with us.*

PTA Report: Great Ice Cream Social, t-shirt sales, PTA is new and is in the process of getting organized for 1st meeting at Back to School night where budget will be discussed. **Merchandise ideas** for bumper stickers suggested. Julie noted that we are lacking merchandise volunteers to help with stickers.**ESL parent classes:** We are seeking a teacher to help with this. **Back to School Night question:** Will there be SPED rotations available? They will be included as visits to Special Areas.

Administrative Reports

Enrollment: Total enrollment is around 550 students (around 70 left due to housing and job arrangement changes). 68% Title 1 (Need 70% for PFL certification) NonDL classrooms have higher numbers than DL classrooms, with the exception of Kindergarten. PreK enrollment is very low, and we are at risk of losing 1 PreK teacher if numbers do not increase.

Funding: Parent Support Specialist will be paid full-time all year. Education Austin is fighting for schools to all have full time PSS and extra programs; Ken noted that the goal is to have permanent city funding, rather than year to year. Parent leaders from our campus have helped us to get extra funding for the PSS position and Prime Time funding annually. It is important to keep those relationships between parents and AISD/City Hall active and ongoing.

IT Grants: Maureen Freeman got A-plus grant for part of her needs; Shannon Mefford received 3600 from Dollar General for *Read Naturally Live* and *Boost, Blast Blitz* for both Spanish and English.

Cafeteria Upgrades: Collin Clark , Julie Joyce and Adam Ramirez painted and hung the noise reducers; The colors are soothing and positive feedback is being received.

Building Renovations: Continue tunneling through November; Construction/contractors meet every Thursday at 1pm. Some classrooms are not getting air now, but it's being addressed.

Dual Language PreK – 2nd chose AISD's Option 3: 80/20 DL model: Teachers have been trained and we are implementing "literacy squared" two weeks English, then two weeks Spanish. Blazier Elementary has been implementing successfully for a couple of years with positive results. (Robertson)_This is new to our campus, but teachers are implementing it. Parents may need reassurance that their students will still be learning English. (Paparone). 2nd – 5th 50/50 model. Funding can still be challenged, so please continue advocating the AISD

Board, because not all Board members support DL. (Zarifis). DL classes get smaller traditionally as grade level increases, while NonDL classes can become overcrowded (as you cannot place a new 4th grader into a DL classroom when s/he lacks Spanish exposure). So the traditional formula of number of students/grade level = number of teachers does not work in DL model schools and can lead to overcrowding nonDL classrooms in middle-upper grades. (O'Driscoll)

Calendar: THES calendar is aligned with the district calendar. Dismissal is at 2:57pm (PreK at 2:12pm)

WOW time is state-mandated due to our PE rotation. Everyday that students don't have PE, they are required to have 20 minutes of structured physical activity. This can come through brain breaks, integrating movement and learning, Go Noodle workouts, etc. Five minutes every hour of structured WOW is recommended.

Recess is unstructured time that Education Austin won. It is not to be taken away as a punishment or used to complete homework. **Equity issue:** No sit outs for homework or punishments

Hug Zone: We are losing instructional time in the mornings, so we are trying to curb time spent getting children to class. Teachers are asking for this based on summer school models. However, this is also our time to make parental contact for many teachers. Two distinct sides: Lingering parents are relinquishing some of the child's independence and personal responsibilities. *Action Item* (Myers and Papparone) will gather pros/cons from teachers. Specifically, what is the problem and how will this proposal solve this/how do we measure success. What is our evaluation period (9-weeks)?*

Homework Policy: We did a campus study last year so that we are streamlining homework to be both specific and purposeful. 5th grade is going to request 10 extra minutes 4th grade: Mostly reading 20 mins/night and possibly math facts. 3rd grade: Mostly reading and parent led

Report on Advocacy Team: Colin Clark is chair to this new team and team is accepting members. Outreach to The Heights Apartments: Garnered 40 residents for an informational meeting about the timeline of the redevelopment and relocation. 19 folks signed up at our Ice Cream Social to help with advocacy. Verbal promises have been made by the owner to keep housing affordable at the Heights. Tues., 6-7pm, on Sept. 13th – is the next meeting

Report on a FAQ based on the Parent Survey (Sp2016): O'Driscoll and Robertson will write up a FAQ and disseminate in the handbooks. Working with updating the online versions. (Ulrich)

Data for Review

STAAR: Index One: Overall we are looking good. Adult issues, high class sizes and new ELL group affected our data. Teams didn't receive as much administrative support, since all meetings were on the same day. Staggered this year. Teachers were trying new instructional strategies, such as Project-Based Learning. Less extended days and Saturday camps may have contributed. African American students are not showing as much growth; the gap increased last year: this is our most mobile group. **Index two:** Some students earned a point just for their growth, even if they didn't pass. **Index three:** 4th/5th graders looks at specific subgroups, and our gap widened. **Index four:** Lower percentage of commended. **Ken Zarifis:** noted the importance of redefining success as non-STAAR based; How would we measure critical thinking skills? Perhaps we could ask downtown on other ways to look at success.

Campus Improvement Plan: CIP (due late Sept./early October). What is it? A campus roadmap, an action plan to improve student learning. Every school has one. **What is the process of creating or amending it?** Certain areas are required based on our data. Only 25 families replied, which is not a true slice to gauge parent views of school. It is happiest and maddest parents, but not a huge slice. We need more participation for accurate data. **Please send ideas or questions to Robertson. SPED Units on Campus:** SCORES, SBS and PPCD. **Coordinate School Health:** Unacceptable rating, but we don't know why. *Action Item*:* Check with Norma on the SSF salad bar.

Technology accessibility at home for our school programs: We need teachers/Kent to provide on to important programs at home (dreambox, raz kids, etc.) *Action item*:* Share with team leaders.

Upcoming Meetings

Austin Interfaith: Kathy Lipincott will be our Thunderboard Representative

SRCC: We need a THunderboard Rep. (Mary Friedman?)

ANNUAL GOALS: WE WILL REVISIT NEXT MONTH

Master Schedule: Ongoing work toward supporting teacher planning (possibly with early release); Spanish/PE daily rotation

Sustainable funding (PSS, technology, software)

Fostering Healthy School Climate for teachers, students, families: teacher support, classroom volunteers, contact Refuge north Austin for Arabic bilingual, Hart Elementary has a refuge community, Arabic college students (St. Ed's), the use of communication Apps (e.g., Matthews Elem uses "Hello")

Teaching and sustaining use of SEL and supporting new teachers with the SEL program/lessons.

Communication: Admin/Teachers, Teachers/Admin, Teachers/Parents, Parents/Teachers

Creating Standard Policies: Homework, Recess and Wow

Implementing Mindfulness in our Moment of Silence: "Think about your day"

School building needs- Space for classrooms (including Creative Action)

Building relationships across cultures

PARKING LOT: Hug Zone, Life in Travis Heights (advertising), Creative Action update

***Action Items**

1. Ms. Gerlach will check in with neighbor about concerns/4-way stop at Live Oak and Alameda

2. *Mr. Myers and Mr. Papparone will gather pros/cons from teachers. Specifically, what is the problem and how will this proposal solve this/how do we measure success. What is our evaluation period (9-weeks)?*

Parents will check in with other parents on their thoughts about Hug Zone.

3. *Ms. Robertson will write up policy on recess, homework, WOW so parents have an understanding in case concerns arise.*

3. *Check with Norma on the salad bar.*