

THES Thunderboard

1/15/2014

Present/Presente: Alex Moir, Betty Weed, Edith Rios, Melissa Castro-Trigo, Camille Clark, Brittany King, Lisa Etzel, Britt Adams, Blake Trabulsi, Melanie Greene, Meredith Reid, Ramero Lopez, Dina Mason

I. Service learning - visit by C.B. Kaye | "Service Learning" - visita de C.B. Kaye

Melanie told us that Jan. 6 C.B. Kaye met with parents and teachers on campus to talk about service learning, Kaye was raving about THES to neighbors and other visitors; went over what different grade levels are doing regarding service learning and how it is relevant to teachers' AND students' experiences

El 6 de enero, C.B.Kaye visitó con padres y maestros y hablaron sobre el programa de aprendizaje por servicio. Discutieron los proyectos de cada grado y como pertenence a la experiencia de estudiante y maestro

Lisa E.: first grade will be working with animal rescue shelters, discussion of needs they have and will work on learning about how to care for cats and dogs

primer grado trabajará con albergue de animales; los estudiantes aprenderan sobre que necesita un albergue y como cuidar gatos, perros y mascotas

Melanie: C.B. Kaye offered to make a blurb for THES website

C.B. Kaye ofreció escribir una nota para la pagina de internet de THES

II. Staffing update | Noticias de personal

Ms. DeWitt has been hired. Registrar Amy is leaving on Friday - new person hired this week, will maybe start this week; long-term sub Mr. O will be in kinder position

Regarding recent lost loved ones: tree planting memorial a possibility

Blake: gravel playground could be called "Wildman Woods" dedicated to Mr. Brandon

it was brought up that it will be important to know where city boundary ends and school boundary begins

III. Grantwriting/Fundraising | fondos

Melanie: Dec. 17 deadline for TEA \$800,000 grant for Charter School Start Up Grant; would fund expeditionary learning, parent coordinator, program director (staff job would be temporary),

On-going talk of 75th anniversary high-dollar fundraiser in addition to fall carnival/anniversary celebration

Fundraising: Endowment or fund may not be the best for THES currently because we need money sooner; maybe a reserve.

Melanie will contact Austin Community Foundation to discuss possibilities

Betty suggests talking to Reuter house as an event space

Melanie: Saint Cecilia is going to be too expensive; nearby there's a studio that's a possibility

IV. Meetings with district & school board officials | Reuniones con funcionarios del distrito y la junta escolar

Met with Lori Moya in December; good meeting regarding 5 freedoms and where to go: make

connections and build relationships with folks downtown, define what it means to be a charter in our sense of the word; Lori Moya recommended talking to Mel W. and decide a “flow chart” so we can operate at our best

V. Definitions of 5 Freedoms | Definiciones de las 5 Libertades

Camille: could use “innovations” instead of freedoms

Blake: maybe use “responsibilities”

Betty: Our innovations mean we have responsibilities

Betty brought up the ongoing AISD enrollment

In an email from Lisa: THES has lost 45 to 65 students this year. That equates to 3 to 4 classrooms and therefore 5 teaching positions. (classroom/ special area/sped) The majority of the people moving have been from the apartment complexes specifically Travis Park and the Cascades.

Dina: Title I money has diminished over the past couple of years, current funds don't cover salary of a teacher; THES is less than 80%

Melanie asks what grades are lowest in number; 4th and 5th grades are small classes

Betty: how many students are transfers

Dina: maybe 50 students

_THES is frozen to transfers for the 2014-2015 school year

VI. Cafeteria concerns | Asuntos de la cafetería

Edith: upcoming meeting with Cris Carillo on Jan. 22; list of concerns: chocolate milk, vegetarian/vegan food options, sustained herb garden to use on the menu

VII. Next steps/Action items | Próximos pasos/Artículos de acción

Next meeting on Feb. 13, 4-5:30

Proxima junta: 13 de febrero, 4-5:30