

Thunderboard Minutes--DRAFT
September 14, 2017 – 4-5:30 pm, THES Library

In attendance: Beth Gerlach, co-chair, Tonya Penney, co-chair, Gretchen Otto, Julie Ulrich, Jennifer Cheatham, Julie Underwood, Wesley Paparone, Merrideth Jiles, Cesar Benavides, Daniela Dejong.

Meeting called to order at 4:00pm

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Approve minutes from January meeting
Motion by Julie Ulrich & seconded by Merrideth Jiles –PASSED
- III. School Community Update
 - A. SRCC update from Gretchen Otto, SRCC President: Gretchen’s term as president of SRCC is ending in one month and she is not running again. SRCC nominating committee is actively looking for a new President, as well as Co-VP. Know any people who might be interested? Let Gretchen know. SRCC annual meeting/elections is also a fun potluck! Everyone is welcome! **March 6, 6pm at Life in the City UMC on Monroe.**
 - B. Advocacy Team Update: The Advocacy Team is continuing work on supporting families who live in affordable housing complexes, and families who may be affected by immigration issues/ICE raids. The team spent some time as the last meeting reflecting on how their work was going overall and came up with a plan to distribute a newsletter a few times a year so the whole community can be updated on Advocacy work. First newsletter is being worked on now. Also discussed long-term strategies for PrimeTime funding. **Next Advocacy Meeting: Tuesday, Feb 20, 5:30pm**
 - C. PTA Updates: New officer candidates are Gretchen for PTA President, Jonna as co-VP, Fred Wu Treasurer, and Oliver and Kathleen will be co-chairs of the fundraising committee. NEED a new secretary! Please think about candidates for that. Calendar Committee is forming to start planning next year’s calendar—send ideas to Gretchen and/or Julie. I Heart THES fundraiser getting into full swing. The next **school-wide PTA meeting is Thursday, Feb. 15**, and will include PBL showcase and our presentation on the revised pillars. **YWW is Feb 22, Beautification is Feb 24**, looking for volunteers!
--Sidebar: Discussion of setting up a table to recruit at HEB
- V. Principal updates
 - A. MOY exam results are in, preliminary budget is in, registration info... Lisa is not here and we can discuss later. Put on next month’s agenda.
 - B. Ms. Martinez is new third grade teacher to permanently replace Ms. Devany; Ms. Friedman will stay also, just part time to help.
- VI. Followups to prior discussions
 - A. Pillars: final review. Discussion of changing name of 4th pillar again: (“Language and Culture”? “Multiculturalism”?) **“Multicultural Education”** We have a winner! Beth will explain our approach to reviewing and revising the pillars at the PTA meeting.
 - B. New teacher training on SEL, PBL, THES culture, making sure they have support. Priority of information? ILT issue? What can we do? Still nebulous, still on the radar. Lisa and Carrie and counselors have been talking about making a plan to better track who has what training and who needs what. How can we improve mentoring new teachers? Work on a short guide for new teachers with just basic info? New teacher survival guide! Cliff notes with really important tips.
 - C. Plan for PD (professional development) days: How to better communicate what is happening on those days? What training? Better transparency, mindful of sharing what value parents are getting in exchange for having to arrange childcare. No complaints but let’s be proactive about communicating how meaningful and impactful it is. Standalone flier.

VII. New discussions

A. Special Education Support

Parent advocate brought up issues about SpEd and making sure needs are understood and we wanted to follow up on that. Making sure people understand how varied that population is, making sure that all are being included and heard. Units with very high level needs maybe not being adequately addressed. What should we be doing to better support them, is the district providing enough support? Can we even do enough to support them? Is our campus too open for safety? We have had runners who just take off and leave campus. (The only unit we don't have is life skills because we aren't ADA compliant.) Special Education Units:

1. PPCD Unit is for students with qualified learning disabilities/speech disabilities as young as 3 years old. District changed ratio from 1:8 (with a TA) to 1:10 (with a TA). 3 year olds only count as half of a student because they only stay for half a day. We currently have 10.5 in PPCT. One TA in this program. Most schools offer this.

2. Largest group is "Resource" (content mastery). Gaining skills through pulling out in small groups but still in general population. We have a 5th grade resurces teacher with 11 students. Ratio is 1:15. We have 4th grade resource teacher with mixed group. Full time 3rd grade but split between two people each half time. All schools offer this.

3. SCORES: autistic program. Half role for one SCORES teacher. We have 9 children in that program. Kids are mainstreamed. Ratio is 1:12. But one of the children needs 1:1. One TA only for this child. TAs are in 2nd, 3rd, 4th also. This is a pretty rare program.

4. SBS: social behavioral skills. (social anxiety, learning disability plus mental health and behavioral challenges, highest needs on spectrum) Ratio is 1:8 (with a TA). Current number of children is 10. The TA is in one side of portable all day long with 3 kids. Another TA is dedicated 1:1 to one student in other side. Third TA goes between the portables in 4th or 5th grade depending. 3 out of 8 TAs are dedicated to 1:1. This is a very specialized unit. There's only one other in our vertical team. We only have 1 student from our neighborhood, all others were transferred/assigned. This program has been on our campus for 20 years.

How did we get assigned these programs? Is our campus the right one for all of them? Are we appropriately supported by the district given the new ratios? Also have had a lot of staff turnover. Also we aren't fenced and we are right next to a creek—real safety concerns. And other schools are way underpopulated (300 students of 800 max)—someone else could take on one of these programs and better support them. Other schools have full time PSSs, and Communities in Schools, and social workers.

There will be a separate committee that will meet to talk more about this issue.

B. School Report Card—not discussed

C. Translation support—not discussed

VIII. TB goals for the school year

A. Still need to do logic model/evaluation plan—coming in future agendas

Adjourned 5:35pm

Minutes taken by Gretchen Otto