

PDC Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2006

Stacy Graven called the meeting to order. Introductions were made. Thank you, Chris Lang, for being a great facilitator last year.

Attendance

Parents	Stacy Graven	Leslie Feller
	Krista Glass	Yolanda Rubio-Couttolenc
	Wendy Schrandt	Susan Schwam
	Chris Lang	Annette Sternberg
	Holly Westerberg, Secretary	
Staff	Emily King (1)	Sue Shannon (2)
	Daina Calixto (3)	Linda Myrick (4)
	Stephanie O'Malley (5)	Paula Dubois
	Shannon Leahy	Johnny Gregory
Guests	Grace Zubia-Aisenberg	

PDC Overview

Stacy reviewed the PDC for everyone, going over the purpose and operating procedures. She also reviewed the main points of the bylaws.

Last year, a lot of time was spent on reviewing specialist programs to better understand the programs. This was a valuable exercise. The PDC also reviewed staff surveys on PTSA which is required every year. The PDC updated the bylaws, streamlining them and deleting old or outdated bylaws.

Principal Report

Clyde Hill Elementary has 460 students this year. Each grade has four classes, but Second Grade has five! Art and Music again have found homes in classrooms, instead of on rolling carts (yay!). However, all of our space is used up.

We have 100 Kindergarteners at Medina Elementary and we had to rearrange our instructional aides to help with our overflow at Medina. This has caused a change in lunchroom supervision, leaving one lunch supervision solely up to parents to coordinate. As it is critical to have first aid trained staff out to supervise recess times, the plan is to turn over lunchroom supervision to the room parents.

The construction question came up, and the staff will get the information first at their meeting, and then it will be shared with the rest of the school community.

PDC Bylaw Changes

Last year, PDC spent a lot of time on the bylaws, as they needed updating and streamlining. We reviewed the changes made to the bylaws. Stacy asked for hands to approve the changes. The proposed changes were approved. Shannon will put updated bylaws on Shareware.

Math Night

The first change proposed is to pass out the surveys at Math Night, instead of a few weeks later.

The biggest response to Math Night was to have it earlier in the school year so that parents can give their students the support they need throughout the school year. November would be a good month for Math Night. Stacy will find out if PTSA will again provide stipends for teachers for Math Night.

Lots of district-related questions come up, so it is proposed that Eric McDowell come in for one night to address the K-12 Big Picture for parents who are interested. Then have individual grade Math Nights, on different nights so that parents with more than one child can attend specific meetings.

Parents also liked the K-1 crossover meeting, it helped with understanding 1st grade math and what the kindergarteners were working toward. It would be helpful to parents to send a flyer, separate from the Newsletter, about Math Night and to encourage them to attend meetings for their child's grade level and the next grade up, if possible.

Emily King will put out a call via email to decide within grade levels who will be responsible for Math Night, and the staff will arrange their forum. The PDC will arrange Eric's attendance, provide the survey and the feedback. Shannon Leahy will produce the flyer once the information is collected.

Math Night will be the first item on the 2006-07 Work Plan.

Future Agenda Structure

The table arrangement for this meeting was great (thank you, Susan Schwam!). The library is booked for our timeframe, so we can rotate classrooms within PDC Staff Members. We might skip the younger grades, the small chairs can get uncomfortable.

In the past, a lot of time was spent on teacher reports. While learning at each level is important, the curriculum is the same for each class and can be checked via a link to the website. Any new, exciting methods or tools can be shared via a call to agenda: Any cool stuff? Best Practices? New Ideas? (name is pending).

PDC will move the General Discussion time to the beginning of the meeting. Stacy will ask for any Unfinished Business. After it is resolved, we can move on to new business.

We will eliminate snack rotation. As much as everyone enjoyed it, it was adding undue stress (and pounds) to everyone. We can all bring our own waters/snacks.

Annual Work Plan

A new bylaw was to develop an annual work plan. Due to the changes in administration, the work plan development for 2006-07 was deferred to this fall. It is proposed to keep the work plan simple as “it is better to do a few things well than to do many things poorly.” Stacy and Johnny are to write the agenda for the work plan. If there is ever something that is uncomfortable to bring to the table, email it to Johnny or to Stacy so that it can be addressed.

The blank green sheet in the packet is for the AWP, and to keep on goal and on time.

Since we are starting with a clean slate this year (yay!), everyone can propose items for the plan. Susan Schwam and Linda Myrick will work on the Annual Work Plan.

Emily King proposed an earlier Math Night (November) and a second Math Night later in the year to prepare students/parents for the upcoming year.

Johnnie Gregory proposed Strategies (AVID Program) incorporated to all grade levels (it can even help 2nd graders). Our 5th grade is the pilot program for the district. Do what makes sense for each grade level.

Linda Myrick proposed the Virtues Project. The virtues are explained as the Gifts of Character in all of us. There are many ways to incorporate these virtues, which are all nearly forgotten with the strong focus on academics. It would be especially helpful to get parents information on the project, as it could help them in dealings with their children and school, and in parenting as well. Teachers find it a respectful and powerful way to work with the kids, and it will help them in the future.

Stacy proposed the PTSA-funded Programs Review or teacher's survey. For: Literacy, Math, Technology, Educational Aides, and Grants. The PDC needs the action plan timeline (Stacy to get timeline from Chris Lang & PTSA Rep).

Stacy also proposed putting the Placement Forms on the AWP. As Susan Schwam pointed out, most parents diligently fill out the forms, even though some of the information is unwanted. PDC needs to find out what information is needed so that the process is more efficient.

A last ongoing project for PDC is the Grade Level Teams. Clyde Hill is working toward teaching teams so that each child will have a similar experience in their grade, and their teachers can work together to provide the best teaching scenario. It is important for the parents to know how each team works/will work in order for the team to get maximum support from the parents. Shannon proposed a blub in the newsletter to work toward that goal; "Let's talk about..."

Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Tuesday, November 20 at 2:45pm.