

ASKEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SDMC Minutes
October 2016

Ancillary Time for Field Trip Days

The SDMC considered ways to ensure that teachers are receiving their planning time on field trip days. Some of ideas proposed were teams switching specials on field trip days with grades that have specials at the very beginning or very end of the day or doubling up to have specials twice one day before or after their field trip.

The consensus among the committee is that the benefit to the grade attending the field trip would not outweigh the detriment to the specials team and other grades affected by rearranging the daily schedule. Because teachers are currently scheduled for 50 min of planning per day, cancelling PLC meeting the week of a field trip will ensure that teachers meet the requirement of 450 min per 10 days. SDMC also strongly recommended each grade level work as a team to provide breaks during and after field trips by combining classes and/or requesting support from teacher's aides.

Recess

The PAT discussed various ways to improve the quality of recess during construction. The construction fence put in place by Division 1 is not acceptable and will be replaced. Although we do not have a timeline, this was approved in the last PAT meeting. The recess schedule will be adjusted to alleviate congestion. PK recess will change to 11:30-12 pm. The Askew PTO will be purchasing playground materials (i.e. jump ropes, balls, bases, bean bag toss, etc.) so that students on the no-equipment side will have something to play with at recess.

2016-2017 School Waivers

This year we were allotted 2 class size waivers. Although we filed 8, this is less waivers than last year. Total enrollment is 938, but we have had over 1100 students in total enroll so far this school year. Currently, we are capped in Kinder, 1st, 3rd, and all bilingual classes.

Feedback/Concerns

- **1st grade** teachers had some concerns about playground maintenance. Our PTO will trim the trees and we have put in a request for extermination of the caterpillars.
- **3rd grade** teachers commented that there is too large a space underneath the temporary playground fence. Division 1 will be replacing the fence.
- **5th grade** teachers asked if announcements could be done before 8 am so their classes hear them before specials time. The committee discussed possibly having students lead the announcements.
- **Specialists** asked if a reminder could be sent to staff about timely drop-off and pick-up.
- **PTO** asked how many Askew families were impacted by the recent apartment fire on Hayes Rd. So far we have contacted 5 families that need help. We are collecting donations. PTO also commented that our relief crossing guard is doing a great job on Hayes @ Lynbrook.
- **Parents/Community Members** Parents expressed concern about the traffic during carpool. We will send out another carpool reminder along with a park of suggested parking.

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 3rd at 3:30 pm