

SDMC Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018

1. Review and approval of minutes from February (these were previously approved via email and posted.)

The minutes from February were approved.

II. New Business

1. Budget/Staffing

- a. About \$150,000**
- b. Instructional Specialist- \$53,300 (10M) and 59,300 (11M)**
- c. Teaching assistants- \$21,000**
- d. Other?**

Mr. Amerson explained that we have an additional \$150,000 to budget for the next school year. He discussed with the committee several options for these funds including an instructional specialist, additional teacher to serve as an interventionist, hiring additional teaching assistants or a combination. Mrs. Hilton asked if another resource teacher could be hired. Mrs. Stout mentioned another teacher for 5th grade and Mrs. Ondruch suggested hiring a counselor in addition to our Social Worker.

The committee discussed space issues in the building and also mentioned that these funds will probably only be available for this year as he anticipates losing magnet funding in the near future.

Mr. Amerson will talk with Ms. Kimble to see what the special ed numbers are looking like this coming year.

Sara Williams asked about the possibility of bringing in portable buildings. Mr. Amerson explained that the district considers the five classrooms used for fine arts classes as space that we could use. There was also discussion about the pros and cons of adding more temporary buildings to our playground space. Sara also suggested the possibility of having another physical education teacher and changing the fine arts rotation to limit the number of students in these classes.

The committee leaned more toward hiring teaching staff than teaching assistants. Mr. Amerson will consider a counselor and a teacher interventionist for reading/math.

2. Professional Development for 2018-19

- a. Math- Dana Vontoure**
- b. Classroom Management**
- c. G/T**

Mr. Amerson asked for input from the teachers on needs for next year and what professional development teachers would like. He said that Dana Vontoure is scheduled to be here during teacher inservice one day for math training. He would also want to bring in gifted and talented training, more classroom management training and G/T training.

Kristi Mayces mentioned a G/T training they attended this past weekend at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Discipline Management: Kristi Mayces said that Mr. Stafford was talking with a parent about starting a Yoga/Meditation training for the teachers to use with the students. Mr. Amerson said that he talked with the discipline management department, inquiring about the next steps for CHAMPS.

He would like to schedule training in each of these areas along with more time for planning when the school year reopns.

[Mr. Amerson surveyed the entire staff in the faculty meeting on 3/3 to rank these items]

3. The Pink/Blue Cards- discussion

Ms. Carfello said that she was uncomfortable with the behavior portion. She didn't like putting a smiley face on the card that can be passed along to others. She suggested using the conduct grade that's on their report card. There was also discussion about the way we've attempted to create balanced but diverse classrooms. Mr. Amerson shared some feedback he's had from parents and the committee decided to focus on creating a blend of academic levels and to balance out behavioral issues but to remove ethnicity as something we are trying to balance. That should not play a factor in building classes.

4. Update on security measures- Ondruch/Pyle

Ms. Ondruch and Mr. Pyle gave an update from the security training they attended in the district earlier in the week. Ms. Ondruch said that you could put children in bathrooms and closets. You can also use the stage and the kitchen. Mrs. Ondruch has a map where we can plan to place students. Doors should be locked all the time. Students should pick up books or anything handy to throw at the intruder. Put heavy furniture in front of the door.

Mr. Amerson said that the magnetic strips that we discussed at the last meeting will not work on our doors because they are not metal. Ms. Wubbenhorst purchased a set but they did not work.

We will have an intruder drill next week. Ms. Ondruch and Mr. Pyle will update the staff in the faculty meeting on 3/3. Mr. Amerson will ask if the district can pay for the blinds that the PTO is wanting to pay for.

III. Communication forms from staff:

1. From Tracy Hilton/1st grade:

- a. Classroom cleanliness. Blanca gets sick often. Schedule for absent.**
- b. Mopping occurs infrequently- How often is it supposed to be done?**

Resolution: schedule for absent custodians. Checklist inside rooms with calendar.

Tracy Hilton said that the rooms in other schools are mopped every day. Mr. Amerson said rooms are spot mopped as needed and mopped weekly per the district guidelines. We have had one custodian miss many days of work. Mr. Jasso and his team are underpaid and overworked and short staffed.

2. From the Kinder team a concern about Little Heroes and use of rooms after school:

The kindergarten team submitted concerns about Little Heroes:

- Leaving the room messy
- Using teacher supplies
- Unsupervised students
- Destroying school property

Sharon D Amico explained that there were three issues in the fall semester and the parents were contacted. She explained that the kindergarten rooms are larger than the other classrooms and are much better for the after school groups. She feels like these are isolated incidents and that there have been incidents that we now know were caused by one particular student and this has been addressed.

Mr. Amerson said it sounded like the input form was suggesting we not have an after-school program but that really is not an option. A long process was followed to get Little Heroes here that involved staff and community members. Little Heroes works very well with us and they are able to take 150 students and still have people waiting. It is a real need in our community to have a child care option.

IV. Communication forms submitted by parents:

SAFETY

- 1. From Sweta Agrawal- With over 18 shootings in schools alone this year students' safety is the biggest concern.**
Resolution: Metal detectors in all the entrances of the school building.
- 2. From Nicole Vogler- More drills AND guards at all schools (armed would be best)**
- 3. From Kathy Golvis- doors left propped by staff (side doors)**
- 4. From Bindu Jose- Is there a plan in place if someone with a gun comes to school? Do the kids have a drill? Suggestion: The staff do a great job of keeping the doors locked. But, if there's no plan for a violent situation, one should be drafted.**

All of these concerns were discussed earlier at the last meeting and at subsequent meetings. We appreciate the concerns and the input and these items have all been addressed. We are practicing for and preparing for violent situations.

BUDGET

- 1. From Bindu Jose- The budget is of great concern; HISD needs to do a better job of managing finances.**

We all agree that the budget is a concern and Mr. Amerson and the PTO are working to keep things as usual for our students.

CURRICULUM

- 1. From Bindu Jose- There seems to be confusion regarding the IB curriculum. Suggestion: Coordinator and organization should be prioritized so that the IB curriculum can be practiced and understood better.**

Sara Williams agreed, saying that collaborative reflection and planning need to take place on a regular basis. This has not been allowed for this year.
- 2. From Georgina Cañas M.- There are no arts activities for the students in PreK. Suggestion: Implement dance, art, and music classes for PreK.**

Georgina Canas wanted to know why the PreK students don't attend any of the fine arts classes. It was explained that with the bilingual students combined with each of the English classes when they attend fine arts, the number of students the number of students would be too large.
- 3. From Mariia Asparouhova- We need to know what textbooks are being used in class and what section of the book children are working on.**

All agreed that teacher and parent communication are important. The teacher said this was explained earlier and through weekly messages but if parents don't see or realize this, we need to make a better effort at making sure communications are heard.
- 4. From Rimpei Takishima- Lack of support for international students. Suggestion: support curriculum for international students.**

This was concerning to the team. The teachers said that there have been language partners for these students, as well as playdates after school. It was discussed that the student came mid-year and perhaps we should think about how to continue the support throughout the year for those arriving late in the school year. We love our international students and want them to feel supported and welcomed.
- 5. Kids spend too much time sitting at desks/tables, not enough physical movement = "sitting is the new smoking." Resolution: More recess and PE every day. PE isn't a fine art.**

There was a concern that students spend too much time at their desks and that we should have more recess and PE every day. The staff agrees that student should not be sitting at a desk all day. We have several teachers who take dance breaks, stretch breaks. Some teachers give additional recess time as an incentive. [Mr. Amerson surveyed the staff on 3/3 to get their opinions on extra recess; for the 2018-19 school year we will move to having two 20 minute recesses each day]
- 6. From Misty Ottman- I'd like to ask for administrative transparency; to include details regarding teachers leaving. I asked Mr. Amerson in the PTO meeting if he could confirm which teachers were leaving and he stated not until it becomes public. I have been informed that interviews are already occurring- I would think this is "public" enough . I'd prefer to hear the facts from our principal rather than rumors among parents. This same thing happened last year. Several teachers left last year and I don't believe there were any notices that alerted parents.**

This was discussed in the meeting. Mr. Amerson stated he felt like he was in a rock and hard place. He doesn't want to seem like he's hiding things from parents but he also

doesn't want to mention this unless the teachers want it announced. Ms. Stout spoke as a parent and teacher and said she doesn't get a note from her pediatrician that a doctor is leaving. Ms. Wubbenhorst mentions it has never been done before. Ms. Houston suggested announcing at the end of the year a generic list saying how many teachers at which grade levels are leaving. In the past, there is usually an announcement at the beginning of the year welcoming new teachers and wishing our former teachers well in their new endeavors. Mr. Amerson will discuss this further with the staff to see the best way to let parents know when teachers are leaving Poe.

7. From Staci Le and Lia Nguyen- We are requesting an open discussion to reinstate Colonial Day for this upcoming school year.

This was discussed in the meeting. Ms. Mayces was present and Ms. Stout who are former and current 5th grade teachers. There were several reasons that were discussed last year when the decision was made to eliminate Colonial Day including the time period takes up 1-2 days in the curriculum only and it did not fit in the IB planners for 5th grade. The decision was to have it relate to their IB unit of inquiry. We discussed the fact that parents in the past had complained about Colonial Day and some of the students were uncomfortable and the school does not ever want a child to feel uncomfortable. Discussions will continue for replacement activities but that will be up to the 5th grade teachers.