

SDMC Meeting Minutes November 29, 2018

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Mr. Amerson asked how we can best balance instructional time with shows, field trips, benchmarks and other school events. Fifth grade teachers are concerned that they have lost too much instructional time due to all the events and benchmarks.

Possible solutions to the lack of instructional time:

- Limit the number of field trips (one each semester)
- Have less in-school activities (performances, IB meetings, morning meetings every Monday, book buddies, box tops)
- Mrs. Stout suggested having a box top store.
- Mrs. Stout also suggested that we have a WIN (What I need), where students participate in an activity that best meets their needs. For example, while some students are attending dyslexia services, others are working on a GT project.
- Mrs. Delange pointed out that this year, doing a musical production can be used as a learning experience. She suggested getting back to the basics.
- Mrs. Stout also mentioned that there are numerous evening and weekend events that take our time.
- Monday morning meetings: It was suggested that they be limited to ten minutes in length.
- Have the houses meet during recess and participate in structured games.
- Mrs. Lewis suggested having vertical meeting with the staff house meetings.
- Get rid of the houses all together.
- Create a group to reorganize the houses.

School Budget:

We are facing a \$45,000 deficit from the original projection. This is due to the lower enrollment numbers this year.

Suggested Solutions:

- Cut overtime (tutorials, fine arts teachers' after school groups)
- Cut programs such as iStation.
- Cut a teaching assistant.
- Less field trips

Mr. Amerson explained how he creates his budget for the year. In the past, schools were able to roll over any leftover money, but that is no longer possible.

There was discussion about the fourth and fifth grade science camp in regard to the amount of money designated for this in the PTO budget.

Input Forms:

- Prevent the outdoor court from flooding. The suggestion is to install gutters on the sides.
- Resolve the problem of flooding and standing water outside the back door to the playground. The suggestion was to install outdoor turf.
- Mrs. DeLange suggested that these issues could be discussed with the PTO, since they have also discussed the issues.

Committee Report:

- Discipline committee – We have suspended more students this year than in the past. The next discipline committee will focus on ideas for preventing problems at recess. Most fights occur when students are playing with balls.
- The PE teacher should leave the ball cage in the hallway.