

Oak Forest Elementary School
SDMC 4/17/2025 Minutes

Agenda:

- Budget Updates
- 2nd Grade Changes
- Curriculum
- Additional Concerns

Mr. Casler opened the meeting at 3:20 PM

Budget Updates

Mr. Casler first opened the meeting explaining the PUA and how each campus has a snapshot of enrollment to help guide PUA (per unit allocation). He discussed that every teacher costs a certain amount. He explained how the child at a campus has a set amount of money based on the different criteria. He explained how the budget has shifted since he first received the budget in March. HISD has adjusted the cost of a teacher from 68k to 70k. He also explained that the average student increased by 75 dollars. He discussed how budgets can change year over year which can affect jobs and other items paid for out of the budget. Mr. Casler praised our PTA for helping as needed when shifts had to be made.

Mrs. Patel asked a question regarding the attendance being a part of the budget and Mr. Casler explained the difference based on the percentage of attendance.

Mrs. Thompson asked about enrollment being 950 versus higher because we have a larger Kindergarten class enrolling. He explained that some students may leave for private school or move so he likes to be conservative when he estimates these numbers.

2nd Grade Updates

Ms. Hines opened up the conversation regarding previous SDMC 2nd grade departmentalization. She went through a variety of highlighted notes with questions below.

1. How will this model help our students?
2. How are we going to ensure that the SEL needs component stays the same or improves with the departmentalization?
3. How will this model improve overall instruction?
4. How will this model add quality to our GT (differentiation) programming?
5. How will we support our students in having multiple teachers?

Mr. Casler went on to discuss the open conversations he has had with PLC 2nd grade teachers about how we are going to shift to departmentalization right and with high quality. He explained that teachers will build communities for students. Ms. Hines discussed communication being key among co-teachers and ensuring that both teachers are a part of the conferences to give insight into each student. Ms. Hines discussed that our teachers are really excited about setting up next year to be a successful year.

Parents asked about how we will handle WINN time and if students will still have different subject opportunities for intervention or enrichment. Mrs. Rhodes was able to answer how 5th graders are able to do a variety of activities in different subjects and it just means communication with partner teachers.

Mrs. Ololoko asked a question about the autonomy of the grade level and if our vision is that they look the same but still have opportunities to be different. Ms. Hines mentioned that curriculum will be a base line and or guidebook and that teachers will still have their chance to put their own twist on curriculum to engage students. Mr. Casler added that instruction has to meet the needs of all of their students.

Mr. Casler mentioned that he will be moving forward with the 2nd grade departmentalization for our campus.

A parent asked how parties will work when it comes to events or activities?

Curriculum

Mr. Casler reviewed the curriculum that we submitted to the district regarding the curriculum choices we made. He explained why we chose the curriculum we chose.

K-2 is using amplify as an ELA curriculum.

3-5 is going to be using HMH into Reading as an ELA curriculum.

K-5 is going to use a Eureka curriculum.

Any other concerns or questions?

Mrs. Patel asked about class lists and placement. We explained that at the Coffee with the Principal we discussed the complexity of class lists and how they are built. Mrs. Ford mentioned being able to make a video to post on parent square for communication. Mrs. Rangel mentioned that her biggest concern is being sure to follow what we truly speak.

Mr. Casler closed the meeting at 4:30 PM.