

NCS Site Council Notes September 9, 2014, 4:00 at NCS in Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: Start of School Stories? Share if you like. The following site council members were in attendance: Charyn Grandau, Abby Jakowski, Lee Lohr, Jim Ruder, Jen Krull, Steve Schultz, Tonya Benz, Beth Junge, Sarah Gaskell, Leigh Schmidt, Kaitie Smith

Not Present: Susan Christiansen. Also present: Bruce Moore, Brandi Mueller, Jennifer Bradley

Marketing Committee Update:

* We have 118 students to start the school year.

4-5 filled with 42 students in each class. (24 4th graders and 18 5th graders) Two additional students were sent in another direction.

2-3: 40 students (room for 2 more)

K/1: 36 students (room for 6 more)

Through unofficial tallying it appears we have:

18/118 students with racial diversity (15%)

23/118 students of low soc. econ. status (19%)

Membership Opening: Tim Volk offered to discontinue his official site council membership because of work conflicts to attend meetings. Bruce Moore (Sidney), Brandi Mueller (Violet), Jennifer Bradley (James and Liam), and Kristin Yeager (Emma) all expressed interest. Bruce had expressed an interest dating back to the spring. We tabled the process to establish official membership on site council to next month as some membership may shift to the 501c3 Board.

School Climate/Wellness-

* Nurtured Heart Class will be offered each Thursday to staff starting the first week of Sept. and continuing into/through October (8 weeks). Tammy Holton-Arnol and Paula Wick are co-presenting from 2:45-3:45 pm. They have asked for a curriculum pay rate of \$22.00 per hour (plus \$3.22 benefits) for one instructor each of the 8 weeks. (\$201.76) Motion was unanimously approved.

* Learning Pledges, Cool Tool Behavior Matrix, Think About It sheets, Discipline Guidelines all went home for families to review. We will hope to collect all Learning Pledges on Back to School Night, Sept. 18

* A schedule has been established to provide two separate morning recesses instead of one afternoon recess. Integrated Arts classes will all be 40 minutes in length. This seems to have had a favorable result already. K and 1 are participating by grade level to open up a Math instructions chunk of time.

* Summer Play Dates were another success. We were in luck with good weather. The last one had a lighter turnout than expected, but still worth doing, as many new families attended. There was a Packer game and speaker at the PAC in

competition. We NEED site council member pictures with their family. Please forward them to Beth. We will post pictures just inside the front doors of school.

* Garden-The rain and wind knocked down the tall sunflowers, but students and Mr. Gundlach, Mr. Lohr and Jim helped stake them.

* Summer projects: The walls/doors have been well received by students and teachers. Electrical boxes for computer carts have been installed.

* Educator Effectiveness has come to NCS along with the rest of the District and State. It will require more time and effort to become acquainted with and to use the system. Teachers have received orientations and trainings, more will follow.

* Volunteers to start the school year- Abby sent out sign-up genius for extra help in K to start the year, especially with swim. Response to K and K swim was good, but we are still looking for volunteers to take the breakfast cart back to SC on Wed. Thurs. and Fri. Abby will also run a sign-up genius to help wipe down and disinfect hard surfaces on Friday afternoons.

* Calendar of social events and fundraisers for the school year?? Abby and Leigh shared a list of possibilities. We discussed returning to the Upper Mississippi Museum in Dubuque, having a "dance" in Feb, moving the ice skating to March if possible, and repeating many of the other fundraisers and events. We will solidify a calendar list next meeting. We will not have a homecoming parade entry this year. Beth will head up a Fall Festival of learning one more year to be held one day during the last week of October.

* Abby reports that lunch bunch Book Club information response has resulted in 7 students signing up to begin a lunch bunch discussion in October!

* WOW Week (Walk or Wheel) will be Oct. 6-10. Students, staff, families will be encouraged to walk or wheel to, during, from, or after school all week. Sarah G. will help coordinate. There is potential for school prize money.

* Jim and Lee will check with teachers to confirm agreement with all classrooms adopting the policy of NO FOOD treats on birthdays. Site council was unanimously in favor making that clarification known to families if the teachers were in agreement.

* Breakfast is coming in bags with three items in a bag. We will intercept the chocolate milk option so only white is available at NCS. Students may keep items to eat later for snack or at home, or they may return them to the kitchen. Jim will check to see if the kitchen can use brown bags versus the bleached white bags.

Recharting Effort- Charyn has submitted a revision to our Charter Contract to Jim and Dean Gorrell. Dean reports he expects NCS and Core to go before the board during one of the October meetings, more likely the second one on Oct. 20.

Curriculum/ Personalized Learning includes: Kaitie, Jen, Katie Kohl, Kristina, Heidi, and Jim. Kaitie provided an update: The \$20,000 grant requires a matching fund of about \$7,000. That may need to come from site council if the EPIC Innovations grant is not a success to cover it. Kaitie provided a hand out to explain progress in the three areas of the grant: 1. Review and purchase STEM materials 2. Professional Development for STEM 3. Provide an after school STEM enrichment opportunity.

Staff Notes: Katy Freye has been hired as the second 18 hour EA. Katy comes highly qualified from Stoughton. The EA who expected to transfer from Glacier Edge ended up resigning on Aug 25. Jennifer Klawiter accepted a transfer from Stoner Prairie in order to fill the vacant 2-3 teacher position created when Susan Fortney retired on Friday, August 22. Mrs. Fortney has a brief letter to announce her retirement, which will appear in Friday's newsletter. We felt extremely fortunate to have such great people ready and willing to fill late vacancies at NCS. Thanks to Leigh, Jen, Mr. Gundlach, and Mrs. Bishop for being a part of interview teams. All voted in favor of site council extending a \$100 gift card from sewing shops. Lee will draft a letter from site council extending appreciation for Susan's many years of service. Families/students would be welcome to extend letters to Mrs. Fortney through the school office.

* **NCS Goals** were slightly revised by teachers to be the following:

1. Students will demonstrate appropriate behavior as evidenced by a 25% decrease in the rate of Behavior Office Referrals, when comparing 2014-2015 with 2013-2014.

* NCS teachers and staff will complete the basic 6 hour class with District Trainers to lay a foundation for incorporating the Nurtured Heart Approach into our PBIS efforts by mid-October.

* We will renew our efforts to focus on the Tier I PBIS school wide expectations and positive acknowledgements and celebrations.

* Tier II, Check in-Check out will be implemented with fidelity for 5-10% of students.

* At least Weekly Cool Tool reviews will be presented by both teachers and Director.

* NCS staff will participate in a self assessment survey designed to measure the fidelity of PBIS implementation in the spring to help direct future efforts.

* A list of logical responses to major behavioral offenses will be created and shared with learners, families, and staff.

* A "Think About It" sheet to promote learner reflection and active involvement in the Problem-solving process will be developed and implemented by the end of September.

* A "Learning Pledge" to be signed by parents and students will be created and shared by the end of September with learners, families and staff.

* Each learner's family will receive a "Good News" phone call by the Director during the course of the school year.

* A growing number of NCS staff will participate in the Beyond Diversity Training offered by the District so that at least 50 % of the staff will have participated by the end of the school year.

* NCS learners and staff will have a whole school gathering at least on a monthly basis to celebrate successes and promote future positive behavior.

* A Student Council will be formed to meet with the Director at least monthly. The Council will be comprised of 2 students from each classroom in grades 2-5.

2. NCS learners will continue to demonstrate growth in literacy skills as measured by at least 75% of 4-5 grade learners showing at least anticipated growth rate for reading skills based on Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) comparing spring to spring performance. At least 75% of K-3 students will demonstrate growth rate in Fountas and Pinnell as determined by Personalized Learning Goal Setting Plans.

A. Personalized Learning- NCS teachers will further prepare for full implementation of Personalized Learning Strategies in the 2016-2017 school year.

* Walker Learning Approach (WLA) will be reviewed and critiqued by all teachers during the fall semester by completing a book study of the WLA Engagement Matters or Play Matters. Selected aspects of the WLA will be piloted with students during the spring semester.

* A growing number of NCS staff will participate in the 5W's class and 6 Steps class offered by the District so that 75 % of the staff will have participated by the end of the school year.

* A NCS teacher and Director will be trained in the Wilson Approach and share strategies with colleagues.

* A personalized learning goal will be developed for each learner and discussed with their family.

* Teachers will convene collaborative teams to share strategies and plan lessons sensitive to personalized learning at least once a week.

B. NCS learners will continue to participate in at least four learning opportunities with an environmental emphasis over the course of the school year.

* Learners will participate in at least two Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) project activities each semester, one of which will be related to environmental studies.

* An afterschool enrichment STEM program will be developed and offered during the school year utilizing grant resources.

* Learners will continue to utilize studies of Badger Mill Creek, the Verona Area School District prairie and school forest, our school garden, and visits to other local community gardens and ponds to enrich environmental knowledge and skills.

Current Fundraising Budget update:

* The 2013-2014 operating budget balanced without any of the projected contribution from Site Council, which was \$1,140. Our current site council account is \$13,800.

* A request to purchase a SMART board, document camera, and speakers at \$2,608 has been requested by Jennifer Klawiter. Jennifer was among the first in the District to use a SMARTboard in her classroom and would make great use of it. All voted in favor of the motion to make the purchase.

* Jim spent \$164.50 on basketballs, soccer balls, and playground balls for the playground. He will not request reimbursement. Jim will instead “purchase” the \$90 compost unit purchased last spring before Nancy donated one to replace the broken unit.

* Kaitie will help submit a UW Medical College grant to purchase a roto-tiller for the garden.

Announcements:

* Sept. 18- Back-to- School Night 6:00-7:20 pm

* Oct. 3 & 4, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training for NCS and SC interested staff.

* Oct. 8 Picture Retakes

Oct. 28 (3:30-7:20 PM) and Oct. 30 (7:30-11:15 AM) - Parent Teacher Conference Goal Setting

* Oct. 30 and 31 No School

* Nov. 3 No School-Professional Development Day.

Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2014 at 4:00 at NCS.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 pm