

NCS Site Council Minutes November 11, 2014, 4:00 at NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: US Service Veteran Stories? Share if you like. The following Site Council members were in attendance: Abby Jakowski, Lee Lohr, Jim Ruder, Jen Krull, Steve Schultz, Tonya Benz, Beth Junge, Sarah Gaskell, Leigh Schmidt, Kaitie Smith, Susan Christiansen, Brandi Mueller, Jennifer Bradley, Bruce Moore, (We need family pictures of Bruce, Jennifer, and Brandi for the bulletin board.) Not in attendance: Charyn Grandau

Marketing Committee Update: Beth, Abby, Leigh are scheduled to meet with consultant David Voss to further strategize our school marketing efforts on Dec. 15 at 8:00 am. Elementary Principals met and discussed K Orientation options. A decision about K Orientation is expected tomorrow on Wed., Nov. 12, with Dr. Gorrell. We will also ask to have a booth at the community-wide Latino Fair at GE this Friday evening.

Update on NCS web page- Abby and Sarah will work on it, but we still need a person to head it up. Brandi will explore what needs to be done. Janette could be available to consult if need be. We will float a Google doc.

Enrollment: No changes in our enrollment of 118 students. (We likely are losing a 4/5 student soon through a family move.)

SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS

* **Raptor System** is expected to be introduced to all families district-wide soon. Many NCS volunteer parents already have had their license scanned and the daily picture ID's are ready to be printed.

* **Nurtured Heart Class** concluded on Oct. 23 with staff. A parenting session is currently being offered district-wide. Greatness continues to be an emphasis along the principles of Absolutely Yes, Absolutely No, and Absolutely Clear.

* **Learning Pledges:** We received a few more pledge sheets back at conferences. We have about 80% returned. Did we roll that out effectively? Should we post the Learning Pledge? Can we review with students more often? Kaitie, Jennifer, and Susan will design a survey to families about what they think about the Learning Pledge Sheet, Nurtured Heart, Goal Setting Parent/Teacher Conferences, School Communications, Fundraising, Parent involvement, STEM afterschool programs, etc.

* **Educator Effectiveness:** Most teachers have completed self-reviews, Specific Learning Objectives, and Personal Professional Growth plans. We are in the process of reviewing those with Jim and scheduling formal observations with those on summary observation cycle years. Teachers will receive Step 4 training Dec. and Jan. to further detail collecting evidence of their efforts.

*A monthly **School Community Gathering** has been scheduled for the last Wed. of each month to take place in the STEP room from 7:35ish -7:50 am. In October the Benz girls, current student, Elise, her sister, Lydia, and mother, Tonya, played a snappy Fiddle and Stomp song on violins and guitar. Three students were acknowledged to have received recognition from the Board, James, Amanda, and Julia F. The golden lunch tray was awarded to the K/1 class. Bonnie led our school song. Our OT, Katie B., introduced another yoga exercise. We will start after the tardy bell at 8:40 am instead of rushing a start at 8:30 am.

***Student Council:** Jim has continued to meet with a Student Council group from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades twice a month to field ideas of how school is going and what we might do together to make it an even better place to learn. Topics of discussion on the last two meetings have included students appreciating efforts to keep the lunch room quieter for them to eat, using more lunch bunches to provide breaks for the lunch room, maybe we should play music some days or in some instances instead of allowing talking in the lunchroom. A suggestion was made to use water in the Monday gutters and tennis balls and that we need more footballs on the playground. Today students expressed favorable reviews of the Fall Festival with likes on pumpkin rolling, three legged races and leaf pictures, Community Gatherings especially the strings, Zoo to You, especially the opossum, the school-wide vote for Governor, 5th grade Ground Works activity, the 4/5 Symphony visit, especially the student piano player. A strong suggestion to replace or repair the tether ball and a suggestion to use roll up sleds was made. It was noted that we should let parents know about it through newsletters. We should have representatives stand up at Community Gatherings to be recognized.

***Silent Auction preview day on Dec. 8** along with fundraiser pick up. Orders seemed to be on pace with last year. T-shirt sales increased again this year. Orange color was a great idea to catch the Verona orange wave. Katie Kohl is heading up the Silent Auction again.

***Fall Festival of learning:** Beth summarized that the afternoon went well. Students seemed to enjoy and appreciate it. Volunteers were great. Beth did a GREAT job once again.

*** Book Club:** Abby reports that the remaining 10-12 students are in it for the right reasons. They seem engaged and involved in the discussion. Next Tuesday will be the next club meeting.

***WKCE testing** for 4th grade social studies and science was completed on Oct. 28 and Nov. 5. This fall assessment effort is drastically reduced from previous years. 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will instead take a state-wide, computer-based, Smarter Balance assessment in the spring to measure literacy and math skills. It will be called the Badger Assessment.

Diversity and Equity Committee: Marti Fechner is chairing the committee which met last Thursday, Nov. 6. Present were: Heidi Klahr, Karen Pings, Marti Fechner, Beth Junge, Jen Polglaze, Isabella Agasie, and Jim Ruder. Not present: Bruce Moore
Proposed plan for new learning series. Continent theme with - Africa in Feb. and South America in May. Monday, Feb. 9th, 12:30 pm start and finish by 2:20 pm. We will meet again Wed. Dec. 3, 6:30 pm. Discussed name of committee, including both the words diversity and equity: Diversity and Equity Committee.

Zoo to You Program The one hour program from Vilas Zoo took place on Friday, Nov. 7th, at 1 pm. This correlated nicely with Art and Music lessons. The program was really well received by students and staff as students were allowed up close exposure to the animals.

Madison Symphony Orchestra Programs: 4/ 5's attended a preview of the symphony in the STEP room last Thursday with the lead obo player. 4/ 5's traveled to the Overture Center this morning. Bonnie thought it went really well. Lee reported that it was a huge success. Students were engaged and the trip provided a rare opportunity to hear professional live classical music...being in the front row was also kinda cool.

BUDGET, 501c3, and RECHARTER EFFORTS:

Relationship between Site Council and 501c3 Committee: Kaitie reviewed the relationship between Site Council and 501c3 and provided a chart. Kaitie explained that our 501c3 status requires us to have separate governing boards. Do we need to market each board more readily? Motion made by Beth and seconded by Leigh to adopt the new structure and implement on July 1, 2015 with the new contract. Motion passed. Should we include a survey question about parent involvement on Site Council, 501c3, and committees?

Recharting Agreement with the School Board: Kaitie and Charyn are ready to present to the board next Monday, Nov. 17, with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. There is some question if the board's lawyer will be able to add requested language in time for the Monday meeting. The second meeting and probable vote may be Monday, Dec. 1st. Site Council members are encouraged to attend to help show support and celebrate where we are headed. We will make all parents aware of the potential board presentations through the school newsletter. We expect support from the school board. Katie shared a summary of the changes.

Curriculum/ Personalized Learning: The Catapult and Castles continues on Monday afternoons after taking a break on Oct. 27th and Nov. 3rd. Heidi Konop attended a 3-day Project Lead the Way STEM conference and is charged with leading the effort to share information with interested staff. Kaitie will help figure out budget options for materials and staff reimbursement for extra training.

Grant Updates:

Target Field Trip Grant to Discovery Center in Milwaukee waiting for word in December.

Garden Grant - submitted and waiting

US Cellular Grant was secured by Jennifer Klawiter to receive two mini-Ipads. US Cellular was in last week to take a couple of pictures with Jennifer and her class.

Current Fundraising Budget update:

***NCS Holiday Fundraiser and Winter Greenery Fundraiser** fliers have been shared. Order were due back on Nov. 7. Pick up will be December 8. Brandi is heading that up. Silent Auction focus could be more STEM after school, curriculum and supplies

***Artsonia-** Bonnie has been working on getting the uploads going. Let's check with Bonnie to see if she needs help for a push before the holidays.

*** The SMART Board** for Jennifer Klawiter has yet to be installed.

Other Requests:

Donation for winter wear and Wish List for Giving Tree for classrooms, school, or students. (We will consult with School Social Worker.) Amazon List for teachers. ?

Thanks to Kaitie, Abby, and Sarah for ordering and setting up food for Tuesday evening, Oct. 28th, conferences, Thursday morning, Oct. 30th, conferences, and Monday, Nov. 3rd, noon lunch during professional development day.

EveryDay Math Curriculum: Jim contacted a rep in to review options to update. He deferred to visit and share the new edition to after the holidays when the grades 3-5 edition is expected to be released in addition to the K-2 levels currently out.

Announcements:

*Tuesday, Nov. 11, 6:00-7:00 pm Family Listening Session with Mr. Ruder

*Mon., Nov. 17, 7:00 pm School Board presentation for NCS recharter (still somewhat tentative date)

*Mon., Dec. 1, 7:00 pm Potential vote on recharter from School Board (tentative date)

*Mon., Dec. 8, 2:45 pm Fundraiser pick-ups and Silent Auction preview

*Wed., Dec. 10 9:25-11:25 am 4/5 Grades to Memorial High School Planetarium

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 4:00 pm at NCS.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.**