



# CLARA BARTON OPEN SCHOOL

Fostering a  
Community  
of Active  
Learners in  
Minneapolis  
Minnesota

## Leadership Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 15, 2016

4:30PM – 6:30PM

Media Center

Prepared by Sara Stenzel

### Hopes and Dreams (Patty Campbell and Sheila Eldred, Council Co-Chairs)

Each Council member reflected upon, discussed, and shared his/her hopes and dreams for the Council in 2016-17, concentrating on this year's school theme of "Kindness." Hopes and dreams included the following:

- have open, honest communication with each other and parents
- listen, stay open-minded, and positive
- identify Barton's strengths
- continue to be lifelong learners
- remain kind, inclusive and respectful
- be welcoming and supportive to the families at Barton
- support students
- uphold the open education philosophy
- strengthen the school and parent community
- work together to solve problems
- lead by example, model kindness
- use care when discussing issues that relate to diversity so everyone feels safe
- receive diversity training and hear a variety of perspectives to aid/enhance discussions

### Principals' Report (Cindy Mueller, Interim Principal and Diane Bagley, Assistant Principal)

- **Enrollment**

Currently, 738 students are enrolled at Barton. Some of the grade levels at Barton are over the target number but Cindy and Diane are working with student placement services at MPS and are thoughtful about Barton's capacity when accepting new students.

- **Staffing**

Barton is now fully staffed. A new Bilingual Associate Educator will start on September

- **Staff/Council Leadership Retreat**

There will be a one-day staff/Council leadership retreat on Thursday, November 3, 2016 at the Humanities Center in St. Paul. In order to include as many staff as possible, the retreat will take place on the scheduled staff professional development day, when students are not in school. This retreat provides an opportunity for the Council and staff to connect in authentic partnership and develop school goals, reinforce teamwork, and have fun as a community.

- **Bus #7**

Bus #7 had been arriving late in the mornings. Cindy and Diane have been working hard with transportation to ensure buses arrive on time and report that Bus 7 has been on time the last couple of days.

- **Meeting with Michael Thomas**

Michael Thomas, Chief of Schools, is inviting Barton parents to attend a meeting next Wednesday, September 21 from 6:00-7:00 p.m., in Barton's Media Center. Council members are encouraged to attend.

- **Restorative Practices**

Diane discussed the non-punitive, collaborative, problem-solving techniques that are being used to support students and help kids find creative ways to solve problems with each other or with staff. Student support works toward restoring relationships and may entail one-on-one mediation with a social worker, action and service work, or possibly participating in a healing circle where students can share their feelings.

### **Volunteer Update (Sheila Eldred and Fiona Pradhan)**

- **Wild Rumpus Book Fair**

The annual Wild Rumpus Book Fair will take place on Wednesday, November 11. The team organizing the book fair (Marcy Zerwes, Sarah Kuzel-Leslie, Travina Leaks and Fiona Pradhan) is looking for volunteers. Please contact Fiona Pradhan if you are interested in helping: [fiona@grantpradhan.com](mailto:fiona@grantpradhan.com)

- **Kindergarten Family Dinner**

The annual Kindergarten Family Dinner will take place on Thursday, October 13, 2016. Kelly Holdgrafer is currently looking for volunteers. Please contact her if you are interested: [solamentekelly@yahoo.com](mailto:solamentekelly@yahoo.com)

- **Council Member Partners**

If any veteran Council members (those who have been on the Council for more than two years) are interested in pairing up with a new Council member, please contact Sheila Eldred for more information. [seldred@gmail.com](mailto:seldred@gmail.com)

- **Council Meeting Notes**

The Council needs a volunteer to take notes at the 2016-17 meetings. Please contact Shelia Eldred if you are interested. [seldred@gmail.com](mailto:seldred@gmail.com)

- **Informal Conversations with the Council**

The Council would like to host informal conversations this year. Parents would have the opportunity to chat with Council members in a casual setting. Sheila is looking for Council members to co-host these conversations. [seldred@gmail.com](mailto:seldred@gmail.com)

- **Barton Fund Committee**

The Barton Fund Committee (the group that oversees and manages the Foundation budget containing money raised from donations) is seeking an additional member. Contact Sheila Eldred if you are interested: [seldred@gmail.com](mailto:seldred@gmail.com)

- **Food at Council Meetings**

Please bring a dish of food to share for the October Council meeting. Sign up to organize/plan food for a Council meeting here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jSBxkHMXTTrZeQkkX4SyqmUYTEpVm8fwf\\_jg2JAc5U8/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jSBxkHMXTTrZeQkkX4SyqmUYTEpVm8fwf_jg2JAc5U8/edit#gid=0)

### **Barton Foundation Budget (Eric Sumner)**

- **Foundation Committee Member Needed**

**-There is one open spot on the Foundation Committee.** Legally, there must be five people on the committee. Currently, Tom Hockenberry is serving as President, Eric Sumner is serving as Treasurer, and Lucia Strand and Fiona Pradhan are serving as check writers. The Committee needs a Council member to serve as a check writer. These are 1-2 year terms and members must be able to attend two meetings per year. Committee members are required to sign off on the expenditure of the donated money and weigh in on how it is spent.

- **Classroom Funds**

**Council members approved giving \$200 to each licensed staff member** (classroom teachers, specialists, and other licensed staff, such as EL and SERT) to use towards classroom supplies. Later in the year, the Council will re-examine the budget to determine if more could be given if funds are available.

- **Foundation subcommittee**

**Council members approved forming a subcommittee that will meet with the Foundation Treasurer (Eric Sumner) and the principals to prioritize how the Barton Foundation money should be spent for 2016-17.** Council member parents Marcy Zerwes and Markus Silpala volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Diane and Cindy will ask the staff if anyone is interested. In addition, this group, along with the Council, will potentially explore how to receive grants from various organizations to help support the school budget. **The 2016-17 Foundation budget will be presented to the Council and approved at the October meeting.**

- **Barton Foundation Budget Background**

The Barton Foundation is a 5013c and holds money that is raised from fundraisers, such as the annual Plant Sale and FUNdraisers, along with money donated directly to the

Barton Fund. This money is used to support things like the band and strings teacher, classroom supplies and the 5/6 overnight field trip. There is a committee of five Council members (see above for more information) who oversee and manage the budget and make recommendations to the Council on how the money should be spent (after meeting with the principals). The Council votes on the proposed budget using the fist-to-five method and the Foundation committee signs off on the allocation.

- **2016-17 Budget**

The Barton Foundation budget for 2016-17 is \$89,000. This was money raised in 2015-16 but will be spent in 2016-17. This amount is slightly lower as a result of a decrease in fundraising proceeds. Historically, the Foundation budget has been around \$100,000. Part of this decrease is due to large corporations changing the way they donate to schools (for example, Target is no longer giving money to schools each time customers use their redcard). More details will be shared at the October meeting.

### **Council Working Groups (Patty Campbell and Sheila Eldred)**

A couple years ago, the Council developed working groups that mirrored the student leadership teams. The idea was to break up the large Council into smaller action groups and include non-Council parents in these groups. **Council approved putting this item on the agenda one of the next meetings.**

### **Student Representatives on Council (Patty Campbell and Sheila Eldred)**

Historically, student representatives from the Student Council or Student Leadership Teams attended Council meetings and gave student updates. Council members decided that the Council is not ready to invite students to the meetings at this time. Currently, there are no structured student leadership teams so it would be difficult to decide which students to pick and determine what they would discuss. This idea will be explored at a future meeting after the Barton administration and staff explore student leadership opportunities for the school.

**THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, October 27, 2016 from 4:30-6:30 in the Barton Media Center. All parents are welcome to attend. \*\*\*Please bring a food item to share for the potluck dinner!**