

Feb. 8 Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

Principal's Report

School budget is coming up; staff and parent surveys will go out next week to gather as much info for prioritizing since we anticipate there will be cuts. Maria broke down last year's budget to share with staff. Last year Barton was cut 6%. We've done scenarios for 2.5-10% cuts. In March we may find out if our application for school-wide Title I will be accepted. Right now targeted Title I funds pay for interventionists; they can only serve a narrow number of kids. With school-wide, those funds could be spread out, and it could bring more money and/or flexibility with who can use it. Money is based on percentage of free and reduced lunch. It does not bring more kids. It doesn't require more testing than we do now. The state may say that if you opt your kid out, they will count it as not meeting requirements. There's no reason we wouldn't be accepted because we meet all the criteria, but state needs to greenlight it.

Feb 23: anticipated day to get the budget from MPS

Start times: Mpls Kids will have a morning program, possibly with a 6:30 start time. Figuring out space and number of kids they can serve. Looking for bigger space so that more K4 families can use that option. Mpls Kids will send a survey in mid-March. Waiting to hear if community ed courses will be available in the morning.

Health: Until we find someone, Diane is teaching health. Using Proud Choices curriculum by MPS.

History of Open School in Mpls: Talked to Progressive Ed group about getting copies to LC and staff. The idea is to use it in figuring out who we are and who we want to be. Will use it for Barton 101s next year.

Room 8: Joe will be with us for the remainder of the school year.

We had our fourth courageous dialogue this week, and a community dinner at Safari.

Monday is African-American Family Involvement Day. A local singer-songwriter-spoken word artist will present plus there will be middle students' work and hip-hop dancers. Breakfast afterward outside Media Center. Families can come and go into classrooms.

Recruiting for Next Year's Council: Trying to recruit people who will stick with it throughout the year. Will put it in the Bugle, get teachers to ask people (Patty will announce this at a staff meeting).

Is there a way to include new K parents?

-->Encourage people to visit meetings.

-->Could join mid-year if they come consistently in the fall

-->Barton Buddies: could be revisited/ or LC members could be buddies to K parents, maybe one parent per room.

Markus moves that LC adopt a policy that if someone attends three consecutive meetings they are offered membership to LC / Amanda seconds. Approved by fist to five.

Treasurer's Report

We have \$965 left.

Request for ¾'s to get online Iditarod Ultimate Insider Subscription, \$169.95, allows kids access to the race coverage. Can show videos, keep track of mushers and check it out at home. And other students in the school can use it too.

Approved.

Announcement of MPS lopyist presentation for parents on Feb. 27. Suggestion to time it with the play 6-8p. Watch for details in the Bugle.

Still need a parent to join budget meetings in March, Wed. afternoons.

Working group reports:

Health and Wellness: Hosting a Barton screening of documentary Screenagers on April 19, 6-8 pm in the commons. Parents of Barton students and students age 10 and up.

Fundraising: Ramped up for budgeting process. Leaders of major fundraisers have been meeting as a group.

Progressive Ed/School climate: Discussed the portfolio/conference cycle: are we consistent and what is our baseline and should we have one? Led to discussion of wouldn't it be cool to see what other grades are doing? Discussed possibilities for a school-wide curriculum night, perhaps around a theme such as What Is Open School?

Communication: Worked on the parent and teacher surveys re: budget. Have a survey ready to go for staff mtg on Tuesday. Intent is to get a big picture right now, and every layer is to narrow it. Too early to prioritize specific things. The parent survey will go out in English and Somali by paper and electronically and possibly phone to reach as many people as possible. There is a lot of information in it so people can answer thoughtfully.