

**West Hillsborough Elementary School  
School Site Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

**Location:** West Library

**Members Present:** Jamie Adams, Ingrid DeMoor Kitahata, Angie Padian, Katie Pierce, Colleen Golden, Roger Avedon, Leslie Hui, An Chen, Kristie Shreve, Betsy Miller.

**Guests:** Don Geddis, Margi Power, Valerie Leung, Theresa Pai, Rick Friedman

**Meeting Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER, 3:15 pm

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, 3:15 pm

3. Introductions – Margi Powers, Clerk of the Board of Trustees joined us today

3. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION – Technology and the Future at West; Ingrid provided a document as a means of discussion around Flip Teaching, Cyber Safety and Information through technology feedback Loops.

Roger Avedon made opening remarks; to kick off the discussion of Technology as both processes and gizmos to be used in education. He commented that any use of new technology is always of concern since change can be difficult.

We talked about Khan Academy and how it is utilized for teachers to monitor the classroom and students' progress. The teachers use dashboards that show how each child is doing. Feedback loops for the teacher helps them to see where children are struggling.

We also delved into the topic of "Flip Teaching" whereby the student learns curriculum at home via the computer and then comes to school to do work and projects relating to the information learned at home. Reactions were wide-ranging from comments made by Ingrid, viewing technology as a means to teach basic rote fundamentals and using the teachers to expand the learning... to comments made by Katie that said, she didn't think that computer learning at this age (younger grades) is completely successful.

Discussions on whether our students are getting what they need to be successful in later grades were brought up. Katie – what do they need to be ready for high school and what type of technology will be relevant.

Other topics included the role that the school curriculum plays in technology. Are we teaching information retrieval and keyboarding or is there a greater responsibility. Theresa Pai brought up interest in expansion of technology skills to also include programming. Various members either agreed that programming could help with the overarching curriculum. Learning mathematics algorithmically by doing simple programming tasks can help with math (comments from Roger Avedon). Others felt programming was a narrow focus similar to other electives and would only appeal to a select group of students.

Christie – talked about the reliability of sources on the internet and that the teachers spend time teaching the students how and where to find good information (not Wikipedia, for example) . Leslie Hui commented that in putting together presentations, students must know how to source information, that they (students) can't copy but must make references.

Roger next initiated the discussion around district rules and policies with respect to phones etc. Jamie Adams explained that no personal devices were to be used or available during school hours but that after school this was outside of school jurisdiction. Jamie and teachers say they do not see technology gizmos on campus.

Katie commented on parental controls and blocks and that they only work so well. It is very difficult to manage. Jamie delineated that the school was not trying to take on parenting and that these issues were beyond the schools control. Rick Friedman brought up Instagram as one source of social media currently being used by 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Margi recommended having computers in a public space at home as a means of control and that you, the parent also need to get involved with what the children are using and viewing.

Gloria Moskowitz will be speaking in May about cyber safety. Theresa Pai talked about the Internet Safety Pledge for 3rd-5th graders and that they will be getting a lesson from Sherri Lynes.

Roger moved the discussion beyond the gizmos and opened the discussion to “what else”?

Margi – subscribes to a lot of information on forward thinking about education, and looking at the big buckets of what technology skills will be in the future. One source that teachers are using is “Pinterest” –which is a way of gathering ideas from great web sites and/or build our own for HCSD forward (Ed Tech Ideas etc)

Comments from various teachers around what they are using in the classroom included:

Colleen Golden - Fluency P – store (learning about money in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade). Kids learn differently and technology helps different kids assimilate the information.

Colleen Golden brought up –How are we going to project forward?

An Chen and Ingrid commented on the need for students to be tech savvy and knowledgeable about how to use power point, blogging, web sites.

Jamie – opened up the question of “what we gain – or lose with the use of technology”.

Katie commented that we should not try to rush technology, because kids may not understand the content beneath. For example, they may put an elephant on a page – and they can highlight things but, not understand what they are highlighting. Technology can make it look like the child understands but, it is masking their comprehension which is a negative.

Roger Avedon brought up the notion that students themselves can create their own educational environment through the use of technology which is a benefit. Kids themselves can get involved in teaching others.

#### 5. OPEN FORUM FOR THE PUBLIC

Members of the public were invited to comment at this point – Theresa Pai asked Margi about the Crocker schedule and the net increase of \$170,000 to create the new Block A period which would begin at 7:20 am .

Margi responded that this dollar number is the maximum cost and likely would not be incurred since only a select number of students would be taking advantage of this new time slot in the curriculum. Electives at Crocker will largely be driven by the students and their interest.

Next meeting is on March 27<sup>th</sup> and will cover Safety and Security – Jamie will put together some documentation.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT - 4:25 pm