

West Hillsborough Elementary School  
School Site Council  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, September 18, 2013  
3:15pm  
West School library

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

2.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Roger Avedon acclaimed by voice vote.

3.0 ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Sarah Adams acclaimed by voice vote.

4.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 17, 2013

Acclaimed by voice vote.

5.0 INTRODUCTIONS: What do you hope to accomplish this year as a Council Member?

Roger Avedon: father to 4<sup>th</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Pre-schooler at St. Matt's Episcopal. Wants everyone to challenge each other—wants to continue Spirit of ....to bring everyone up to level of State requirements—that's the letter of the law.

Jamie Adams:

Believes this is good venue to share, be open, to discuss topics that are difficult to talk about.

Anu Hoey:

Parent of 6<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. Wants to participate more this year and bring a perspective from a working mother.

Chris Flores:

Teacher, parent of kids at other schools. Wants to contribute more this year than last time he served on the council.

Don Geddis:

Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. Previously served and chaired council. Not a member this year.

Jay Beams:

Music Vocal teacher would like to contribute more this year also now that he has one year under his belt.

Megan Medvitz:

Served on Site Council years ago when first at West. Now it is more of a forum for CHANGE so excited to be apart of change that benefits students.

Sherry Gavin:

First Grade teacher and advocate for the children and contributing to the betterment of their needs.

Leslie Hue:

Parent of two children who wants to contribute and really engage other parents to participate with Site Council and be informed, bring more views and values to the table.

Valerie Huang:

Parent and hope to contribute more this year.

Katie Pierce:

Parent of 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader. Felt that the Site Council made some accomplishments last year, and wants to continue making decisions and improvements this school year.

Sarah Adams:

Parent of 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and Kindergartner. Hope to learn and contribute while typing Site Council meeting notes!

Sorita Murphy:

Secretary and Go-to person!

Erin Ross:

Parent of Kindergartner, and Pre-Schooler, who looks forward to helping to bring about positive change.

## 6.0 CURRENT BUSINESS

### 6.1 Revision of Yosemite Policies

Originally started as parent run 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trip; has evolved into a school run trip. Guidelines, never bylaws, now re-done to remove the

chair role since that function had ceased to have value with the school managing the lottery for chaperones. Teachers are the continuity. The same number of parent chaperones will still be included even though the chair positions have been eliminated.

One parent thought others were shocked that she was a chaperone for her male student. Good to educate parents about the options. As Ms. Medvitz explained, there is a strong argument to keep same gender student with same gender parent. Legally, either gender parent is allowed to enter the lottery.

Chaperone meeting isn't mandatory but is highly recommended.

A suggestion was made to work on creating a committee (parents & teachers) for video, photo documentation, etc. In past asked for parent chaperones to volunteer taking on such roles. Time to re-group. The video coverage has been and continues to be collected and edited by the HTV editor (now Sally, the district HTV person). She is paid for this service.

Each year every parent interested in being a chaperone can apply, whether parent of one child or multiple children.

General perception of the lottery overall is fine and fair.

## 6.2 Single Plan for Student Achievement

By statute, the Single Plan must be approved by the HCS D Board of Trustees. The proposed plan needs to be on the board agenda by January 2014, as managed by Modell Marlowe Anderson at the District Office.

The original purpose of the Single Plan was to manage state and federal grants flowing into an individual school in order to give a measure of local control for how that money might best be spent to maximize its impact in raising the most number of students to the state's desired student achievement level. Because HCS D is such an astronomically high performing district, this purpose is quite redundant at West.

Here, the money historically has paid for general educational student aides (staff). According to the chair, if this council should think of something at West that needs to be addressed, and better funded, can make that suggestion to the Superintendent. The 2013-1014 Budget has

been crafted...can request for following year. It's not about aides it is about money. Mission of council to address these issues.

Some clarification that the council historically also controls \$5000 from the West Parent Group. In recent years that money has been given to Dr. Jamie Adams for her personal discretion for use at the school.

Four Goals (defer to Single Plan Review handout sheet)

Change last year: to be more quantitative, how to measure, evaluate...

What is Purpose Single Plan at West? statement or goal.

- a. what is it that the school values?
- b. safeguard not to back off from what we are attempting to achieve
- c. record of achievement....deficit...?

Review handout:

Academic Goal

Is the 95% target, 2<sup>nd</sup> –5<sup>th</sup> or all students? For STAR testing? Will this change with the Common Core testing? Not teaching same standards as....teaching to the core curriculum but do STAR testing. Have Pilot testing.. Right now maybe no STAR testing in California this year.

Why limited to Language Arts?

Why is it this way this year and not last year? Math goal was easily met, and Language Arts needs more attention. Science, writing in upper level grades? Math testing might be sufficiently tested in classrooms.

Is there a particular deficit we're trying to address? Need an academic goal because we are a district that tests for it.

Site Plan is public document posted on School website. Some data is not publicly published at this time.

Essential Outcomes:

Read from Single Plan Review. 90% of kids tested with score of 3 and greater.

Two categories: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS and PROBLEM SOLVERS.

Dr. Adams and staff were asked if they were aware that the Council had selected the two issues of Essential Outcomes and Effective Communicators for special attention at West Did staff adjust curriculum? In all cases, the answer was no. No one had been informed and no changes to educational processes were made.

What is a stop-gap indicator of whether we made it or not? Is this data and Plan enough information to answer the question.

Pleased that they chose these two categories—Effective Communicator because it addresses the public speaking skills, etc. and Problem Solvers because it can objectively assess student, instead of feeling like a student's character is being assessed. Every grade level, except last year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade met the goal. (Red flag : Kindergartners last year had lower scores. Were the Kinder teachers aware of 'deficit' of students at end of year compared to beginning of year?)

### Differentiated Curriculum for High Achievers

What does Differentiation mean compared to Curriculum? Curriculum vs. Differentiated Instruction. A concern was that these two groups may have been underserved. We settled on 'High Achievers,' instead of 'Gifted.' There are High Achievers who are not Gifted; there are Gifted who are not High-Achievers.

A parent referenced Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by **Carol Dweck** noting better goal to individually, philosophically, meet needs of each student, desire to inspire because all kids, in theory, should be able to be high-achievers.

What are we doing for our High Achievers? How are we motivating them??

### Social Emotional

Difficult to get data about this.

Jay Beams: we do care about the whole picture, more than academic needs. Communication between teachers, parents, counselors...how to measure and address?

Qualitative & quantitative ...how to measure individual grades? Perhaps the new counselor can offer a way to measure in classrooms. Teachers/ principal on playground monitoring, in classroom also. In elementary school, there is so much to learn...

Chair asks Council, are these last two goals being achieved?

Teaching mindfulness and conflict resolution from a young age is helpful.

Fill a Bucket philosophy...

Keep simple in order to properly measure.

Developmental growth workshops for teachers happens regularly according to Principal.

### 7.0 Adjournment

Meet in a month. Thank you.