

School Governance Council Meeting

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Stefan Carretero, Sue Mills, John Arizzi, Ed Wachowski, Andrea Birch-Mohan, Lori Hickey, Minnie Dineen-Herzog, Marc Poliquin, John Sincerbeaux, Lisa Collinge, Ricardo Gonzalez Llera, Heather Rose

Public Attendees: Scott Hagan and Bonnie Lee Robe

Absent: John Cherry

Approval of Minutes for September 4, 2012 Minutes: Heather Rose motioned for the approval of the minutes and Marc P. seconded the motion.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Summary of SERC “School Governance Councils in Action” Conference:

- *SERC Powerpoint was viewed and presented by John A.
- *Focus on student achievement was recommended by conference representatives.
- *It is suggested that we have a copy of the bylaws at meetings and refer to them periodically.
- *School Improvement- It is suggested we develop a written school compact.
- *An achievement committee is recommended.
- *It is recommended that we review fiscal budgets with the principal.
- *It is recommended that we create a parent involvement policy.
- *SGC should be involved in the hiring of the principal when needed.
- *Discussion occurred regarding the forming of committees to aid in the fulfillment of goals and objectives.
- *It is recommended that the focus be on student achievement.
- *We discussed working towards group consensus so that if the group decides something together there does not need to be a formal vote.
- *We discussed setting an academic goal to increase parent attendance with a focus on reading.
- *We discussed setting an operational goal and a school parent compact to increase parental involvement and accountability of students, parents, and teachers.
- *It was recommended at the conference that we amend our bylaws.
- *Ed W. agreed that we should set a parent involvement goal and create a parent compact. At the conference they had very specific instructions on how to go about reaching the year long goal of a parent compact.
- *The agreement has to be between parents, student, and teachers.

- *This could be presented at parent conferences.
- *Marc P. said there are parent compacts available on the Connecticut State Department website.
- *Discussion happened regarding the accountability of parents once they have signed a compact. Marc P. mentioned learning that one method is to check in with parents periodically.
- *Ed mentioned that the accountability could be based upon the grade level expectations.
- *Suggestion made by Lori H. that we could form a committee to work on the school compact.
- *John A. suggests we take home the information and think about it for next meeting's discussion.
- *Discussion happened that because we are not a Title I school we do not have to have a school compact. However, it is highly recommended.
- *John S. mentioned that parents that are not accountable for a reading log may not be accountable to a parent compact.
- *John A. discussed the idea that the compact would be the seed for future accountability.
- *Ed said this is meant to be a communication tool for parents so they know how to support their children. Also, the parents are only a piece of this. It is a school wide effort. There should be some key points that parents know their child will leave each grade with.
- *We had a consensus to move forward with looking into a parent compact.
- *Check out schoolparentcompact.org
- *We will review the literature handed out this evening to be more understanding of parent compacts for our next meeting.

Review of SCG Responsibilities: Covered in the powerpoint previously.

Discussion on the Formation of Committees:

*Ed discussed the budgeting for this school year. Most of the money is accounted for already. There is three or four thousand dollars left. There is not much to offer now as it is difficult to predict what may be needed for the building from now until the end of the year. We will discuss more about this towards the end of the year.

***Committees do not need to be formed at this time. However, they may be formed as needed.**

Principal's Report:

*Ed discussed the District Performance Index and School Performance Index briefly with regard to looking at data and setting goals.

*We need to look at data in a general sense and not particular classrooms

*We have not begun work on OAP because the guidelines have not been given yet. This is due at the end of October. The school leadership will be working on this. Ed would like to present this information at the next meeting if possible.

*Sign-in sheets were given by teachers from the open house. The school average for parent participation at open house was 60%.

*We discussed ideas to increase participation at open house such as child care. Another idea from John S. was for the upper grades to have the students run the open house.

***CMT Report was given via power point. The power point is available to view and will be presented again at the next PTO meeting. Grade levels and all staff will be presented to in the coming weeks.**

Review of Baseline Data Needs and Requirements:

*Refer to the principal's report.

The following are ideas from each grade level to increase parent involvement in the coming year:

*Third grade is proposing a mystery evening using the strategies from the mystery unit to solve the mystery with their families.

*Second, first, and fourth grades would like to have a math night run by the kids in part.

*Fifth grade proposed a reader's theatre for the second half of the year.

*Kindergarten is brainstorming ideas for future event(s).

*Bonnie Lee Robe proposed using a reputable survey for parents to do with regard to the connection between parent involvement and student performance. She suggested we remember who our audience is for this survey.

*Survey Monkey would be a good one to use.

***Grade levels will pick their topic and month to do it.**

Discussion of Marketability of Events: Moved to next meeting.

Discussion of Community Member: Community member Bonnie Lee Robe from Western Connecticut State University attended our meeting. We will discuss the possibility of inviting her to join SGC at our next meeting.

Agenda For November 13, 2012 Meeting:

***Identify Goals**

***Amendment to the bylaws shifting from a vote basis to a consensus basis**

***Leadership may come to the next meeting**

***Parent Compact discussion**

***Community member discussion**

***Marketability of Events**

***Principle Report**

Motions To End Meeting: First motion was by John S. The motion was seconded by Marc P.

Ending Time: The meeting ended at 8:39 PM.