

STR SGC Meeting January 31, 2012- Stadley Rough Media Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

In attendance were parent members: B. Cirella, L. Hickey,

M. Dineen-Herzog, J. Amalfitano, L. Schechter, L. Collinge

Teacher members: J. Sincerbeaux, M. Scott, H. Rose, D. Bussmann

Public participants: special guest – Patti Avallone

M. Johnson-principal.

Public comment - 15 minutes

None

Guest speaker, Patti Avallone, educational consultant

Ms. Avallone reviewed the purpose and role of the SGC. She advised us to keep in mind: who are our students and what are their needs?

The group identified the school's strengths: a caring staff, the kids here enjoy school, we do well considering the lack of funding, there is great parental support, there is a good balance of academics and extras, there is a good family environment, there is a commitment to improvement, a positive energy here, the staff works well together, the kids care about each other

It is important to determine the needs and set norms. The group established norms for this group: *silence phones *start and end on time *respect others opinions *stay focused/stick to the agenda *be prepared

Community members: the group identified qualities we would like in our community members

The group then suggested needs of the school: fidelity of implementation for staff and parents, commitment and follow through, reading and number sense, understanding the need to strive for more, lack of strong role models, intrinsic motivation, self confidence (research says the top indicator of success is adults believing in the children), resources-financial as well as personnel (volunteers), support (for individual students, to reduce class sizes...), high expectations, large class size, reaching all parents about the importance of school, our population is diverse and spread throughout the area

With these needs in mind Ms. Avallone suggests narrowing our needs to no more than two.

Other schools top priorities are usually literacy and engagement.

The group engaged in discussion on our priorities. Engaging families came out as a top priority for many, really educating them on how to help and communicating more effectively. Engaging volunteers was another.

The group then discussed possible obstacles: number of volunteers available, training, deciding what to use the volunteers for, who volunteers where?, who coordinates?

Once our priorities are decided she suggested we need to engage all the stakeholders and how each can move the goal forward, then develop a timeline. She suggested we do not rush or try to do too much. She gave the group some ideas for next year such as "compacts". She encouraged us to make this group visible and gather input to bring back.

The group thanked Ms. Avallone for her help and support.
Mrs. Johnson will type a summary of this work for us to share with community members.

Discussion of Parent Survey

Mrs. Johnson informed the group that some money is being given to the school from Dr. Glass and she would like to use some of the money to run some parent education that reflects our survey. This would be a series of workshops. There are some conflicts with PTO and SGC meetings, we could adjust times of each to accommodate. A suggestion was made to hold one of the sessions downtown. Transportation was also suggested. She also told the group the survey results have been shared with staff who are all making observations.

Mrs. Johnson would like to know how to best share this information with parents.

Grant

Mrs. Johnson shared information on another grant she received through Danbury Children First. It will tie in well with the new school climate law. The Rachel's Challenge project will come do a presentation for our school on March 22. There will be a parent meeting that night too. <http://www.rachelschallenge.org/>

Discussion regarding the election of Community Members - review of drafted letter

Tabled until after tonight's presentation

Approval of minutes from January 10, 2012 meeting

Motion: B. Cirella/J. Amalfitano to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2012 meeting.

Action: Approved – unanimously

Motion: D. Bussmann, M. Scott to revise the November 20, 2012 meeting date to November 27, 2012 due to Thanksgiving.

Action: Approved – unanimously

Agenda for next meeting

Community member discussion – name suggestions

Goal discussion

Motion to adjourn: B. Cirella, J. Sincerbeaux

Action: The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

The next SGC meeting will be on Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Melinda Scott

STR SGC Co-Secretary