

SGC Meeting Minutes September 3, 2013

1. Called meeting to order at 6:30PM

Members in attendance:

- Adriana Mendoza (Parent)
- Bonnie Caton (Teacher)
- Deb Czupkowski (Parent)
- Ed Wachowski (Principal)
- John Arizzi (Parent)
- Marc Poliquin (Teacher)
- Marilyn Machado (Teacher)
- Shannon Henggeler (Teacher)
- Stefan Caretero (Teacher)
- Tasha Gordon (Parent)

Members Not Present:

- Andrea Birch-Mohan (Parent)
- Estela Camacho (Parent)
- Scott Hagan (Parent)

2. Public Comment (15 Minutes) - No Public Comments

- Shanise Grey (visitor)

3. Welcomed New members

4. Election of Officers for 2013-2014

- Mrs. Caton is nominated to fill the position of Co-Secretary for 2013-14 by Mr. Arizzi seconded by Shannon Henggeler, Approved by vote
- Shannon Henggeler nominated to fill the position of Co-Secretary for 2013-14 by Bonnie Caton and seconded by Marc Poliquin, Approved by vote
- Mr. Arizzi was nominated to fill the position of Co-Chair for 2013-14 by Marc Poliquin and seconded by Marilyn Machado, Approved by vote

- Tasha Gordon nominated to fill the position of Co-Chair for 2013-14 by Deb Czupkowski and seconded by Marc Poliquin, Approved by vote

A brief overview of some of the work/history of the SGC was provided by Mr. Arizzi and Mr. Wachowski

- Last year focus was student/parent compacts which outline the expectations of students, parents and teachers in the educational process, as well as, the Stadley Rough Parental Involvement Policy, which outlines the responsibilities of the school with regards to parental involvement.
- Some additional work the council may consider would be the development of parent surveys, a school/parent handbook among other items.
- Continue with parental involvement and continue to try to put ideas in place to increase parental involvement and complete the parental involvement policy

5. Approval of minutes from prior meeting (6/4/2013)

Motion to accept minutes with suggested amendments (listed below) by Debra Czupkowski and seconded by Marc Poliquin, Approved by vote

- Item #6. Motion was rescinded and item was tabled because policy required further revision. A vote was never taken.
- Item #7 on June 4 minutes needs to show that a vote was taken and approved

6. Principals Report

Mr. Wachowski reported on the following items:

Compacts

- Completed for each grade level with a parent, student and teacher component

- Highlights expectations for what is to be expected by end of school year
- Students will create and monitor goals throughout the year
- Will be discussed at open house with parents and they will take a copy home.
- At conference time goal setting will be discussed and shared
- Teachers will keep original compact and copies will be sent home periodically through the year
- Mr. Arizzi is going to look into having the compacts color copied. Mr. Wachowski to send by email to him with number of copies needed.
- Parental involvement ties in with compact as well

Council broke up into two sub committees last year. One worked on Parental Involvement Policy and one on the Compact. Using the template provided from SERC workshop. It was a work in progress last year and this year we can continue to focus on the Parental Involvement policy...a philosophy...something to add on to it would be concrete steps that we can put into place that would support our philosophy for parental involvement. Parent resource area is being set up in office at the moment. Putting together a Welcome Packet for new families is also something being put together at the moment by front office.

We want to have more information evenings this year for parents to integrate the Common Core in math and language arts. We need to look at some steps to put these plans in place.

Deb Czupkowski mentioned linking to PTA website for explanation of CCSS- could possibly add link to our website for parental information

Current School Initiatives:

New Staff explanations: Laura Laffer (3rd Grade) Samantha Burrows (5th Grade) Christine Wiggins (Music-long term sub) Olivia Tracey (Resource)

New parking configuration and discussed all projects going on in building-painting library, basement, add on to cafeteria

CCSS alignment in all grades in math and language arts. Focus for math is grades 3 and K, while language arts will be working with all teachers in all grades to look at standards alongside of the units of study.

We could possibly look for parent friendly CCSS documents to share; Achievethecore.org has a parent component, but is a bit wordy.

Teacher Evaluation- Danbury adopted the Marzano Framework and approved adoption by the state of CT. Elementary schools are implementing it partially, while the MS and HS are being fully implemented this year.

DRA level expectations published to parents with ranges of where students should and do fall within the range-Deb Czupkowski would like to see DRA scores and ranges published- teaching kids and parents how to choose just right books; possibly an information night;

Marzano model- going through stages of learning and new information, the ultimate goal being independent learning and solving a problem with teacher as a resource...not right by their side.

Arizzi: how do we get parents involved? We need to get them here so we can share what we know and what their kids are working on...how is it different?

- Shannon suggested integrating technology to get people involved
- Links on website for CCSS
- Apps for CCSS and games for kids and videos for parents
- January winter reading/ccss

Use October meeting to plan out 3-4 reading/math nights for parents, but goes hand in hand with Parent Involvement-Liasons would make a big difference.

7. Mrs. Grey spoke about a 12 week parent course put Parents Supporting Educational Excellence-Connecticut Commission on Children...we need to check into this- Anne Mead is the contact person

8. Set agenda for next meeting:

- Review parental involvement policy- come up with any suggestions and try to wrap up by third meeting and adopt it
- PTO Liason who attends the meetings- we need to appoint one (Deb will attend the September 24th PTO meeting)-will address month to month
- Council is to have two outside community members sitting in on meetings-we need to find some possible individuals-maybe a day care provider? Maybe a real estate agent?
- Setting up a few dates throughout the year for information nights around the CCSS
- Look for resources, parent friendly around the common core and/or websites that may be helpful

9. Reviewed calendar for balance of 2013. We meet on the first Tuesdays of each Month. October 1st is good, but for November we are meeting on the 12th and December 3rd. We will set the calendar in December for 2014.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 pm by Marc Poliquin and Deb Czupkowski seconded that motion, Approved by vote