

**Dianne Feinstein Elementary School
School Site Council Meeting
3/18/09**

In attendance:

Michelle Chang (Principal)
Rickey Jones (Chair, parent)
Joshua Mates (Vice Chair, parent)
Paula Larink (Secretary, parent)
Simone Peters (parent)
Nicole Small (teacher)
Aaron Neimark (teacher)
Erin McCarthy (teacher)
Tammy McMillen (classified, parent)
Dan Ryan (community member)

Welcome and Norms Review

SSC Chair Rickey Jones welcomed the group and all visitors who attended the meeting. The group took turns reading the SSC's meeting norms prior to voting on the minutes.

Minutes Review

An SSC member noted a minor correction to the previous month's minutes. Paula agreed to correct it and made a motion to approve the February minutes with the correction made. Erin seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (10), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

Aftercare

The SSC began to review the data collected from the SSC community meeting, the aftercare survey, the GLO meeting, various comments shared with individual SSC members, and SSC emails. (See attachments). Michelle gave a history of her research with aftercare programs. The data showed that the most pressing concerns of the parents who responded to surveys or participated in meetings were 1) safety, 2) time for homework to be completed, and 3) costs and that in general, parents were pleased that the YMCA and other options were under consideration and review. Erin noted the lack of services that have been available to SDC students and asked what GLO's position on the topic is. She said that she had spoken with the YMCA, who assured Erin that they would be willing to change the status of the existing program to be more inclusive. Costs were not discussed however, and some questioned whether it would actually be feasible. Meeting visitors voiced their concerns that there would be adequate follow through and that all students would be guaranteed a safe environment. They also raised concerns about additional costs that could make aftercare more difficult on families at a time when people are concerned about the economy and job loss. Michelle and Erin agreed to research the topic further on behalf of SDC students before decision-making.

The group discussed whether there had been any improvements in the YMCA program since the aftercare discussions began. It was noted that there had been some improvements,

particularly when Emily Formosa was on site, but that in her absence that standards had relaxed.

Michelle gave a brief history of the aftercare program, how the YMCA was selected, and her personal experience with aftercare research. She noted that she had started an aftercare program at one of her previous school sites, so that when she began researching for DFES prior to opening, she knew of the various vendors and their offerings. Of them six, three made her final list, including MEEP, GLO and the YMCA. MEEP proved to be too costly, GLO was her first choice, though at the time, the program required commitment of 120 students, and being that the school was just opening, Michelle did not feel she could make that commitment. Stonestown YMCA was willing to do the job however had concerns about licensing, and offered to bus kids to a site with licensing if the forms didn't arrive in time. This was impressive to Michelle and she felt good about the decision to work with the YMCA.

She then shared some statistics with the group that made her feel that it was time to reevaluate the aftercare program:

- The BSC work that the DFES SSC and entire district is doing requires that the aftercare program be an extension of the school day and reflect the goals of the district.
- DFES has had five directors in three years of operation
- Only one person from the original staff is still on site
- Michelle fielded complaints about safety, costs, and lack of homework structure

Those who attended the GLO meeting were asked to comment on their individual opinions about the program. While all stressed that they've not seen the program in action other than in one brief meeting and during a homework period, they noted that overall, the program seemed very sound and quality conscious, with capable staff and a very professional and committed director, who had served with the organization for 19 years. One member noted that from an organizational perspective, it seemed well-run with self-initiated quality standards, and appropriate checks and balances in place, such as multiple satisfaction surveys throughout the year, strategic planning, and a board consisting of at least 51% parents by design.

A guest asked whether there was a way to build consensus among the group of parents who would not welcome the change. The group discussed the possible options and the general consensus was that because there had been no additional feedback or involvement from the individuals who had expressed concerns, that their voices had been heard and additional feedback would be listened to, respected and acted upon should the feedback come. Michelle noted that she would try to speak with anyone individually as requested. Another noted that the group was engaging in "analysis paralysis". Another stated that a great deal of work had been done and that there had been multiple opportunities to raise concerns, voice opinions, and proactively participate in the discussions.

Michelle thanked the group for their hard work in polling the community, conducting the survey, and preparing for the various meetings. She said that she would schedule final discussions with both groups, address last minute concerns, and make a decision over the weekend, then notify both groups.

She said that she would then work to begin folding in the goals of the aftercare program with the BSC work and requirements.

PTA/SSC requests

Michael Sova gave a presentation to the SSC regarding his funding request to attend a differentiated instruction (DI) conference. He explained that DI is a way to address needs of all learners in classroom. He noted that it DI is a trend in education that gets talked about a great deal but that there is very little training on the topic. He requested up to \$500.00 to attend a three-day conference in Chicago, IL in July. His vision is to disseminate the information to the rest of the DFES staff in the fall of 2010 and eventually, through grants pursued, start a professional learning community (PLC) for teachers to get together to share ideas and best practices. He noted that such a group would evolve organically, and depends on the needs of the teachers at the school. For example, one idea might be to form a book club where teachers would read and discuss professional books, then return to the group and reflect. He said this could act as an extension of the ELL group. He noted that such meetings can be very generative and powerful.

Michael would eventually like to implement a PLC @ DFES for teachers to participate in, and would also like to also see the teachers get paid for this effort in the future. Staffs are currently looking at different school-wide assessments to implement for next year, and they would focus on DI as it pertains to literacy.

Erin said that she values Michael's community spirit and his ability to disseminate the information. Other teachers agreed and also added that if monies become available for these types of activities, teachers would like to have equal access to the funds in the future and suggested creating a formal process for this. Michael and Aaron would like this to serve as a model for future similar situations. An SSC member noted that it is embarrassing that the SSC has to discuss such requests at all; he feels it should be a given and that by sending Michael, the SSC makes a statement that it supports professional development (PD) of the teachers. All agreed that PD should be available to all teachers as a standard for the future, and that there should be a more formal system for PTA requests. The SSC committed to working with the PTA to figure this out and come up with standard procedures for monetary requests. Michelle suggested that we formulate a more specific vision for the school for PD. She noted that DFES hasn't had a lot of extra monies in the past but that with vision and specific criteria, we are more likely to move forward and publicly stand by our commitment to excellence through teacher development.

Nicole made a motion to fund Michael to attend the DI conference in Chicago, Illinois in the summer of 2009 . Erin seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (10), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

BSC

The group reviewed the BSC "wows and wonders"; Michelle suggests meeting in groups again to:

1. use rubric to make goal
2. make changes according to wows and wonders and what was left off
3. review handouts given

4. revise what we have for the final draft (so right now, rating and revising; hard work is done!)

The SSC will try to meet in BSC groups and will review and vote on the final version in the April meeting.

Next Meeting

April 16, 5:00pm

Updates

Nine teachers received pink slips. The city says it will release 23K. The district has to wait for city to do this until they can rescind pink slips. Michelle encouraged all to step up and fight for education. All agreed that this system is not the way to treat people. Teachers come in knowing this will happen. The group pondered the question raised by SSC teachers: "Why are we accepting this?" They noted that they find it destabilizing and demoralizing and that layoffs are never done like this in the private sector. One member stated that layoffs result in a depression and just like in companies, the environment is forever changed. The members pondered how to address the BROKEN SYSTEM as relying on Prop H and rainy day funds are unique to San Francisco, but dangerous. All agreed to try to bring ideas to the next meeting and to start building alliances. Michelle suggests working with the PTA as well. Dan talked about using model of the organization he is part of (Sanchez model) to broaden and expand efforts.

Budget Matters

About \$3,800 is available in the budget, some of which was awarded to the librarian (voted/approved in last meeting). The technology committee is looking for funding for computers. Their request is through the district at \$579/each. (We must purchase through district for SSC-approved computers.)

Michelle made a motion to purchase computers with the remaining library funds; specifically two computers and three monitors for the library. The quote is \$1739.00. Dan seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (9), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

Michelle will consider professional development, LSP support, yard support, ask some questions and report back to the SSC in the next meeting.

Paula made a motion that Michelle research PTA/SSC funding for 50% LSP, speak with the staff in a staff meeting for suggestions, consider topics raised by SSC in this meeting, then make a proposal to the SSC, who will then vote via email. Erin seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (9), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

Rickey made a motion that the SSC pays 25% of an LSP and asks that PTA match that commitment if allowed by the district. Michelle seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (9), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

Paula made a motion (at 8:24pm) that the SSC table the bylaws topic for the next meeting. Nicole seconded the motion.

The motion passed: In favor (9), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

Surveys

Tammy offered to compile the BSC survey to prepare it for distribution to the school community.

Next Meeting Agenda

Norms

Minutes approval

Budget

Aftercare Expectations/Align BSC (Erin)

Plan for Carlos Garcia meeting in two months

BSC update

New business

General updates

Rickey made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Erin.

The motion passed: In favor (9), Opposed (0), Abstain (0)

The meeting adjourned.