

Willett Elementary School
Site Council Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2016
Staff Room
4:00 PM

Site Council Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call
 - a. Absent members: C. Didas, A. Ferguson, S. Ghetti and C. Weintraub
2. Public Comment: none were made.
3. Approval of Minutes from February 1
 - a. Moved by R. Boonchuoy, seconded by L. Canterbury. Approved unanimously.
4. Principal Update
 - a. SBAC testing dates are now being set by teachers at each grade level. Most of the testing will likely occur in May.
 - b. Third grade students were re-tested for AIM qualification last week.
 - c. The project to bring wireless to every building on campus is back on again and planned for this summer.
 - d. M. Agnew and J. Klineberg led a meeting of 5th grade parents last night (Feb 23) for Outdoor Ed fundraising for next year's 6th graders.
 - e. In March, the school schedule will be modified for 2 weeks:
 - i. March 14-18 is Spring Conferences week and students will be dismissed at 1:30 each day in 1st - 6th grades.
 - ii. March 21-25 is Spring Break holiday.
 - f. Mimi Monson went on maternity leave last week. Ann Pellow is currently subbing for her.
 - g. P. Vaziri now has Kiby Fuchslin working with him. She is the first 19-day credentialed substitute. In mid-March Janet Carter will take her place for the next 19-day shift.

- h. Two 5th grade positions—the AIM class and the class P. Vaziri is currently teaching—have been posted in-house. If no viable candidates are identified it will next be posted to EdJoin.

5. Committee Reports

- a. AIM Advisory – Report will be given at next meeting.
- b. PTA – Heema
 - i. J. DiNunzio spoke about proposed late start considered in 2017–18 for the junior and senior high students.
 - ii. DTAC has a goal of a 1:1 ratio for devices and students within 3 years.
 - iii. There is a movement towards starting a STEA²M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Agriculture, & Math) program at the high school level in DJUSD at some point in the future.
 - iv. Our Superintendent is leaving for a new position.
 - v. M. Sunder will speak about the Parcel Tax at the next PTA meeting.
 - vi. Oscar award grants will be funded soon. Not all classroom grant requests were able to be fully funded and there was considerable deliberation among the PTA regarding a protocol for funding big- vs little-ticket items.

6. Discussion of Self Study

- a. Rody started the discussion about what was learned or noticed from the Self Study day.
- b. Heema mentioned the value of the support staff after seeing the para-educators in action during the self-study day.
- c. Kelly pointed out that there was value for the parents to be able to see how teaching is currently being presented and differentiated based on the students' needs.
- d. How can the Site Council help mitigate the loss of staff funding that will occur next year as a result of the Willett PTA's desire to no longer fund staffing positions? While a sound strategy for the PTA this also will likely result in the loss of some members of the reading support staff if implemented.

- e. Wendy and the EL team were very impressive to observe. Her connection and positive impact with the students in her care was exceptional.
- f. Transitions between activities also interesting for visitors to see.
- g. Process questions: members liked the longer (45 minute) time allocation

7. Youth Truth Survey

- a. Heidi recalled the staff conversation regarding the YT Survey. Things to note:
 - i. 3-point scale and over 2.5 average should be considered successful.
 - ii. Relevance scores were surprisingly low. Some students may not fully understand the nuances of the more complicated questions. Other questions such as connecting relationships with their teacher from school to home and back.
 - iii. Scored high on questions regarding 'grit'. Willett averaged 3.27 compared with 3.23 for all of DJUSD.
 - iv. Rody explained the background for adopting the YTS. Borne out of a need for more data to measure student engagement.
 - v. Students biggest complaints from the comments section were:
 - 1. Yard Duty: Students didn't feel the Yard Duty people were not doing anything to help and that there were not enough of them to monitor all of the students. As a result there was a meeting to share the information with the YD staff and subtle changes were initiated to help ensure students have strategies for solving their conflicts with each other outside of the classroom. This change has been very successful.
 - 2. Food: better quality food for the hot lunches was consistently mentioned in the students' comments.
 - 3. MPR: students wanted a larger MPR.
 - vi. 5th grade scores were very low across the board throughout the district.
 - vii. The summary was that while there may be questions about whether the survey results accurately capture the mood of the student

population at Willett, the results should not be ignored. There have already been positive results from the data, such as the adjustments made to the Yard Duty program.

8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 20 at 4pm.
9. Site Council: An announcement will be made in Who's News and to announce that candidates for the 3 positions expiring this year: Rody's & Simona's, and Caren)
10. Adjourned at 5:05

Mission Statement

Willett is a community that strives to help all students reach their academic potential while fostering respect, responsibility and resourcefulness.

Dream It – Will-ett – Achieve It