

PALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SAC Minutes - Monday, April 8, 2013

Attendance: Quorum is achieved

Katrina Worthington

Stephanie Kinsey

Kimberli Nalven (Co-Chair)

Kim Wildes

Eden Andrews

Sallie LaBello

Stephanie Bozard

Melanie Tahan

Jennifer Ledford (Co-Chair)

Katie Kusiak

Bill Fehling

Sharon Hackney

Colleen Packer

Don Campbell (Principal)

Laurel Madson

Travis Brown

Victoria Watson

Stephanie O'Donnell

Adriene Helt

Susan Jackson

Chris MacEwan

Call to Order:

A meeting of the Palencia Elementary School Advisory Council was held in the Media Cove on Monday, April 8, 2013. Co-Chairperson: Jennifer Ledford called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm, welcoming Bill Fehling from the SJC School Board and Sharon Hackney, PES Instructional Literacy Coach. Co-Chairperson Kimberli Nalven recorded the minutes for this meeting.

Minutes:

A motion was made by Kim Wildes to approve the minutes for the March 2013 PES SAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Stephanie O'Donnell. All in favor. No opposed. Motion on SAC Minutes for March 2013 passed.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

1. Review of Core Values and Mission Statement – Jennifer Ledford reviewed the PES Core Values and Mission:
Our Core Values

Respect: We will always strive to be loving, respectful and compassionate towards others, our environment and our community;

Confidence: We will show confidence in each other with honesty and integrity;

Creativity & Passion: We will be life-long learners who inspire creativity and a passion for learning;

Leadership: We will always help each other develop to our greatest potential and become leaders in what we are most passionate about;

Laughter & Enjoyment: We will have fun, laugh often and enjoy each day of our life to the greatest extent possible.

Our Mission

Our mission is to build relationships with our community and local businesses, as we strive to develop educational programs that are environmentally conscious, aligned with district curricula, equitable and enriching for both students and faculty, yet inspiring creativity and driven by data.

2. Common Core Presentation (by Sharon Hackney) – The shift to Common Core from FCAT to the PARCC assessment to assess the Common Core state standards. Shift is intended to avoid teaching to the standards, focusing on the standards and not the testing. The Common Core testing should cover skills that cross grade levels to make sure the progression of learning exists and ties together. Rigorous teaching that requires students to use the information and then apply it to something new. It's designed to be not just "how well you perform on a test." The PARCC assessment uses technology to more accurately assess the students' knowledge and skills at a deeper level.
3. Budget and Allocation Update: the 2013-2014 Budget based on numbers of students per school. We are projected to have growth to about 578 students. August 1 is renegotiation date for more final student population numbers. The number of teachers and associates are generated by the numbers as they become final. Projected to add an additional teacher in 4 & 5th grades. Discussion of budget for building operations including supplies, maintenance and repairs.
4. Overview of meeting with Dr. Joyner: Dr. Joyner met w/PES parents on March 20 to get digital experience feedback
 - Positives include - Digital is the future of education and we need to take advantage of what these technology impacts can have for our students.
 - We've had a "pilot school" to test and watch this process so we aren't facing these issues without any kind of "road map" of where to start or where some of the pitfalls are.

- We've saved money and resources by going Digital with PES (and we will do the same with the 2 new schools coming online in 2015) as textbook purchases were not made that will have to be duplicated with digital technology purchases by 2014.
 - Negatives include: legislation passed last year for a "drop-dead" date to implement digital. The terminology of the bill uses terms like "all and only" that leave little room for the kinds of specialized tweaking of the curriculum to provide the best outcome for students.
 - Ex.: If all textbooks and materials must be digital and only digital tools are available to teachers/students, there is no contingency for making hand-held tools available for students or teachers that need that access for emergency situation or best-practice instruction situations.
 - Funding for the entire district. While the legislation requires 2014 deadline for Digital implementation they are providing no blueprint or funding mechanisms for districts to make that happen.
 - Open-ended costs on digital textbooks makes budgeting and staying on budget near impossible. Technology "subscriptions" for digital textbooks must be renewed each year. Currently companies continue to raise those rates randomly in whatever increment they determine.
 - Implementing the digital infrastructure and troubleshooting the process at PES require a tremendous amount of District staff attention. How can we translate that into a workable plan for implementing that at all 32 other District schools at once?
 - Downtime from teaching for teachers and staff to work within a technology environment that comes with a significant amount of glitches and features that don't necessarily work as expected.
 - Removing the best-practices element of teaching that looks to utilize the best teaching methods to educate the students instead of being limited to what the digital instruction provides.
 - Ex. If the teacher needs to go "offline" to teach a more "hands-on" method, that needs to be planned for in the curricula and technology interface.
 - Parent Concerns: Too much time in front of the screen with combo of in-class work and homework.
 - Students that don't learn or test well in a digital environment will not flourish.
 - Parent training needed to efficiently understand how to work with the system and help their children within the technology.
 - System glitches can cause problems with homework and testing that is completed but not submitted properly when the system goes down.
 - Time is wasted on systems going down and teachers needing help or spending time getting it back up. Sometimes test data is even lost.
 - Parent Positives: Students are more positive about the digital work because it has a "game" entertainment kind of environment.
 - The children see it as a positive thing that has given them the opportunity to engage in and experience many more opportunities than just traditional learning.
 - Digital Education is the future for our kids so we want to embrace and work with it as a positive.
5. General questions and comments: issue from crossing guards on the kids cutting through the park and the carpool line instead of following the sidewalk all the way around the parking lot. Request for another Digital Night.

Reports:

1. No reports made.

Next Meeting Date & Time:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2013 in the Media Cove.

Meeting Adjournment:

Motion: Colleen Packer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 pm. Motion seconded by Katrina Worthington and carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Kimberli Nalven,

PES SAC CoChairperson

Approval Date: _____

