

Minutes for Site Council Meeting: February 2, 2009

Review of January Minutes

Changes to the Nixon website were discussed. The concensus was that the changes are a positive development. Site council members will have their email addresses linked to the site in case people want to contact the members of site council. Also survey results were discussed. (As posted on the website.) The comment was made that clarification might need to be made noting that the transition between 5th and 6th grade is one of the most difficult times, and not necessarily the 5th grade year itself. Mary Pat has been asked by parent reps on the site council to give an informational presentation regarding "general middle school pointers" as she used to teach middle school and has a broad understanding of developments during these years. A few minor details about wording in the website were offered. Beth will incorporate these minor changes in wording.

Lifeskills review: Students are now making morning announcements. (Very cute...) There has been positive response from parents and students alike regarding the program. There is a correlated book for families available if people are interested. It is available in the library. The lifeskills program does not honor everyone at the end of the year....rather it assures that every child is honored during the year.

Professional Development: The district is changing this terminology to "professional learning." Mary Pat feels that the district is trying to foster the kind of environment which already exists at Nixon. Some new resource books were presented. Sean has used both books and really likes them, for both lower and higher groups. Mary Pat mentioned the various professional learning opportunities which are being enjoyed at Nixon this year...(past and future.)

Technology Team: Nixon had a \$10,000 dollar donation toward technology support. Mary Pat met with some staff and they came up with a list of items that would be really great to have at Nixon. Mary Pat will finalize the prices and proceed with purchasing after final approval from the committee.

ERB Data: Nixon ERB scores are above both other suburban schools as well as private school scores. The 5th graders at Nixon who are in the 25th percentile in their ERB score would be in the 80th percentile at another suburban school and would be in the 70th percentile at a correlating private school.

School Budget: Some of the budget numbers changed from the budget Mary Pat handed out last month, due mostly to a better understanding of "codes" by Mary Pat. A "Special needs" area of the budget was added which can be used for any special needs that come up at Nixon. There do not appear to be any restrictions to the "special needs" money in the budget. Cuts in Sacramento will affect our district and our school. Luckily PA schools have been frugal over the past years and have a little savings which hopefully will be able to hold us over through this tough financial time. PiE funds are also lower than they had hoped, and will probably result in some cuts at the personnel level. A discussion ensued about the method of getting donations for PiE. Many Nixon parents feel that the \$650 number was prohibitive. The comment was made that if PiE wants to increase their participation rate, they may want to stress that any amount would be appreciated.