

NIXON SITE COUNCIL MEETING—March 2, 2009

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

PROGRESS UPDATE ON NIXON SPSA: Site council approved the single plan at the beginning of the year...(mostly formulated at the end of last year.) This plan is very broad in scope, based upon recommendations and requirements from the district, and it would be good to correlate the “sub initiatives and improvement activities” with things that can realistically be addressed in staff meetings. Some district requirements are given and never taken away. Therefore, Nixon is not addressing ALL components of the site plan in ALL years. Mary Pat feels o.k. about this, because Nixon is addressing many of the important aspects of the single plan. Math and English Learners sections have many elements in place which are being addressed at Nixon. GATE could use some adjustments based upon district practices and as a school we are going to look into our own version of a written plan for each student.

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT ISSUES: Page Hetzel broached the subject of staff making a list of equipment or supplies which would really be helpful, which could then be provided to the PTA fundraiser/ president. This list could be very helpful to PTA. Mary Pat mentioned she has been waiting to hear what the bond money was going to be used for. She just heard back today that the bond money will be used solely for computers. We are now ready to proceed with the “technology gift” purchases. PTA typically puts a chunk of money towards basic supplies and we hope that will continue, particularly since we will likely need the money more next year than we have in the past. Teachers often have fluid needs, and might need time to provide a list of their possible needs. Our site council teachers might be able to feel out the other teachers and see if there are items. Teachers also would love a larger mini fund because every year they have out of pocket expenses which they don't have enough money to cover from the fund. Teachers were asked to talk to other teachers and get an average of out of pocket expenses which are being covered over and above the mini fund.

UPDATED SCIENCE CURRICULUM AND A LOOK AT STATE SCIENCE STANDARDS: Second and first grade science curriculum switched. Both sets of teachers feel it is a better fit. Third grade also made some major adjustments. Fifth grade teaches water planet, basic chemistry, and living systems. Fifth grade teachers have had a few days of training, in which they get to do the hands on experiments which the kids do, as well as extend the concepts which they are teaching. The science book which is being used teaches EXACTLY what the children have just done for an experiment. Supplemental books are targeted to non English learners,(lots of pictures and graphics) grade level readers, (right on grade level for reading difficulty)and advanced students. There is one more day of training left this year and then next year we'll move on to emphasizing math. The new science curriculum is now more in line with state standards, and the use of science notebooks is being utilized, so the children can review before the state tests.

NIXON DATA OF PAUSD STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: District goal #1...by 2012, 95% of all students grade 3-8 will be on grade level (proficient) in ELA and Math. District goal #2...by 2012, 85% of all students grade

3-8 will show 1 year's progress or more in the grade level curriculum in ELA and Math. District numbers are presently 85% for goal 1 and 78% for goal 2. The question is how do we get from 85-95% in goal 1, and from 78-85 in goal 2? A final goal 3 is to reduce the percentage of 4-8th graders not-yet-proficient in ELA and Math by 50%. Nixon School numbers for last spring were as follows: (with Nixon school being 2nd or 3rd highest in number and percentage of English learners...) Goal 1: ELA...83.7% and Math 91.2%. Goal 2: ELA...93.6%, Math...95.5% , both ELA and Math...81.3% neither ELA or Math...6.4%. In April we will begin to develop the steps for our Single Plan for next year. Perhaps we could tailor the after school enrichment programs to address the needs of the students who are reflected in the lower numbers above.