

NIXON SITE COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 6, 2009

REVIEW OF MARCH MINUTES: Ruth

UPDATE OF MATH MATERIALS ADOPTION COMMITTEE: The committee (which includes 5 Nixon teachers) has been working for 2 years to choose an appropriate curriculum. It was narrowed down to 2 different curricula which were piloted by teachers, one of the programs was chosen, and it was to be recommended to the school board later this month. This has been postponed due to community input, which is pushing the "Singapore Math" curriculum instead of the curriculum which was chosen by the MMAC. Mary Pat would like to educate site council as to why the MMCA chose the curriculum which they did. Alison Curtis, Stephanie Han, Ginna Brereton, Kevin Stevens and Laura Lajeunesse are the teachers from Nixon who are on the MMAC.

The Everyday Math Program was piloted and teachers would talk about what they liked and what they had questions about, etc. When overall results were shared, everyone was very positive about what results were being achieved. It includes lots of problem solving, a large technology component, a special California edition (to satisfy all California's special standards) and a very rich multi leveled approach to math.

One of the concerns of the parents who are protesting Everyday Math is that the method for teaching math is different than what they learned, and they are not sure they will be able to help their children with homework etc. Everyday Math includes an extensive "Home links" section which is specifically targeted to parents...teaching what is being learned at school, and reinforcing concepts at home. There are also concerns with a calculator being used in the Everyday Math program. The calculator use is limited, and is really more as an enrichment to the regular curriculum.

The district is putting up on the district website an extensive explanation of why Singapore Math was not chosen. One could refer to that if one would like more information on the decision process. The Nixon site council is very supportive of the MMAC recommendation, and would like to send a letter to the board of education to that end. Site council members will also observe a lesson being taught from the Everyday math curriculum.

NEW SITE COUNCIL MEMBERS: We are in need of 3 new parents to be members of site council. We also need a new chair for next year, as Page Hetzel is going back to work and will not be able to fulfill that role. Either Athina Quake or Ruth Ann Daines will take on that position.

GOAL SETTING: NIXON'S SINGLE PLAN FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 2009-2010: Our site council is a group that sets goals for Nixon School. These goals need to be in accordance with district goals and plans. (We reviewed district goals and strategic initiatives as we begin the process of formulating goals for Nixon so that site council is aware of district goals that we need to help facilitate. One area that we might explore is health and fitness. There is growing evidence that there is a strong connection between physical activity and brain function. Site council may want to incorporate a goal regarding this

area. The comment was made that the SPSA should be a (perhaps) smaller document which has more clearly defined goals, so we could measure and see our progress. Teacher development could be augmented by providing more time for teachers to coordinate how they will teach new material (the new math curriculum, for example), and for teachers to interface at the end of the year (e.g. from 4th grade to 5th grade) and give a summary of where the children are academically so that the teachers for the next year can prepare effectively.

We will look at "Goal 1" from the district for 95% of the students to be proficient in ELA and see if a large percentage of our students are English Learners. Then we will be more able to tailor our goals to the specifics. Site council will think about other types of goals which we might want to incorporate into our SPSA.