

# **Lucille M. Nixon School Site Council 2009-2010**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**September 14, 2009**

### **In Attendance**

Mary Pat O'Connell  
Megan Cox  
Stephanie Han  
Kristina Hayes  
Sarah Patanroi  
Stephanie Han

Rika Bosmans  
Ruth Daines  
Alli Deeter  
Ahtina Peiou-Quake  
Julie Tomz

Kathy Gurtner, PiE chairperson for Nixon

### **Agenda Item 1: PiE at Nixon this year**

- Kathy Gurtner spoke about PiE's fundraising efforts.
- The PiE goal is \$2.6 million, which is \$.1 million over last year's goal.
- The drive for donations will be Nov. 16-18.
- There will be other efforts to reach out to Nixon donors, with the goal of further increasing the percentage of families at Nixon contributing to PiE.

### **Agenda Item 2: Site Council Responsibilities and Roles**

- Julie Tomz will be the recorder for this academic year.
- Ruth Daines will be the PTA representative for this academic year.
- Alli Deeter will be the Site Council president for the next academic year.
- Mary Pat explained the origins of school site councils in California, noting they are generally made up of approximately half parents and half staff, and their goal is to help improve the school. A complete list of Site Council responsibilities was provided to members.
- Site Council is different from the PTA in that it determines how School and Library Improvement Funds as well as some other state categorical funds are spent, addresses needs arising from student achievement scores and other school data, puts together and monitors the Nixon plan for student achievement, and works on issues that affect the overall academic and social environment.

- To-Do. It was suggested that Nixon better educate the community, perhaps through Nixon News, about the distinctions between Site Council and PTA so parents know better who to go to with suggestions/questions.
- It is possible that there should be an ELAC representative on Site Council. Megan will check on this.

### **Agenda Item 3: Site Council By-Laws**

- Athina will provide the by-laws to new members.
- Mary Pat reviewed the by-laws.

### **Agenda Item 4: Final Report for Last Year's Single Plan for Student Achievement**

- To-Do. The Site Council is supposed to approve last year's final report to submit to PAUSD. It was not approved last spring because the required template and final student test results were not available. This agenda item is on hold.

### **Agenda Item 5: Single Plan for Student Achievement 2009-2012**

- The Single Plan is a three-year plan now. Nixon states how we plan to achieve goals set by the District. Nixon strategies are linked to strategic initiatives.
- Comments/suggestions included:
  - A2 Language. Perhaps involve Student Council in support of the Lifeskills initiative, and generally improve the visibility of the Student Council.
  - A3 Language. Teachers need to communicate the TACKLE process more clearly with parents.
  - A1 Math. Other ways for staff to build partnerships with parents is through math meetings/parent nights and Math Night.
  - A2 Math. We might need a more streamlined way to get computers to kids who don't have one at home. Also, much is being done to show parents how to support their children in math even if the curriculum is above what parents know. Perhaps we can ask parents if they have extra computers to donate to other Nixon families. Also, perhaps we should create a PTA position around IT needs to focus on getting computers to kids who don't have one at home.
  - B3 Math. Perhaps we can make the playground blacktop more education-friendly, e.g., by having hopscotch courts that involve math. One challenge is where to put this kind of thing in a safe place, away from where other games are being played. We should ask people at Walter Hays how much kids use the math-oriented parts of the playground in an educational way. Perhaps could make games like chess/checkers available at the picnic tables at recess by using towels that have the gameboard on them.
  - A3 Learning Environment. We should publicize the students' examples that they share at morning announcements about how they have demonstrated lifeskills. Mary Pat to collect these and Julie to publicize in Nixon News. Other activities at Nixon that support this initiative are the buddy system and the Nixon News

- student reporter effort. Perhaps we should add Student Council information to the Nixon website.
- A3 ELL. Another Nixon effort that supports this initiative is the new Buddy program for new families, with an effort to match first languages.
  - A1 Gifted/Talented. It is thought that it is best not to pull gifted/talented kids out of the classroom but meet their needs with differentiated learning in the classroom. This is easier with reading and math. Nixon is still working on better ways to provide extra math challenges for kids who are ready for them.
  - With discussed changes to be made, the Site Council voted unanimously to approve the Single Plan. It will then await District Board approval, at which point it can be shared with Nixon families.
  - The Site Council reviewed Nixon's 2009 STAR test results.
  - The Site Council reviewed the Site Council Budget 2009-10.
  - One other issue Mary Pat wants to look at is the school schedule in Palo Alto, as the afternoons on early days are difficult for teaching as the time after lunch is so short.