

Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School Site Council 2009-2010

Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2010

In Attendance

Mary Pat O'Connell

Megan Cox
Stephanie Han
Kristina Hayes
Sarah Patanroi

Ruth Daines
Alli Deeter
Athina Peiou-Quake
Julie Tomz

Agenda Item 1: Approval of January Meeting Minutes

- The Site Council began the meeting by approving the minutes for the January Site Council meeting. There was no Site Council meeting in February.

Agenda Item 2: Quick Items

- Ruth Ann encouraged Site Council members to assist with the phone bank set up to educate Palo Alto voters about the upcoming parcel tax vote.
- A parent had asked Mary Pat about Nixon's lifeskills program. Mary Pat pointed out that PAUSD says schools should offer some sort of character education program but does not mandate what that program should be.
- Mary Pat pointed out that PAUSD did not sign on to the Race to the Top Memorandum of Understanding because the district did not want to sign on to something that had so many unknown factors.

Agenda Item 3: Update on Impact of PAUSD Budget Cuts on Nixon

- Class size increases will affect all grade levels except first grade which is already at 22 students. The increase will be effective next year.
- District and site savings (e.g., reductions in supplies) are helping.
- Nixon does not spend every dollar we receive, so we anticipate some carry-over to

next year's budget.

- PiE funds will help reduce the impact of district cuts. The fundraising effort this year exceeding target expectations, with an extra \$16 per student over last year's funds (equaling \$6,880 for Nixon).
- Nixon expects a reduction in SLIP funds, though the percentage is not yet certain. Usually SLIP funds amount to about \$30,000.
- There will be a reduction in discretionary funds -- \$35 less per student from the general fund (\$15K). In addition, 25 percent of facility use funds (e.g., income from afterschool enrichment providers) will go to the district (\$5K).
- The total prediction reduction is \$20,000 plus whatever the SLIP reduction amounts to.
- Mary Pat said to keep in mind that we will have carry over plus summer income (from the use of Nixon for camps). She tries not to allocate all dollars in order to have flexibility with funds.
- The parcel tax measure is critical to avoid \$1.9 million more in immediate cuts.

Agenda Item 4: Review of Progress to Date on SPSA Proposed Actions

- The SPSA is the Single Plan for Student Achievement. The SPSA Progress Report is available at the Nixon office.
- Additional comments regarding the Progress Report included:
 - With regard to encouraging more student involvement in the Nixon News as a language arts initiative, Julie is to ask teachers to remind students of the "Students Speak" question each month, perhaps even adding it as an optional assignment in homework, and perhaps Mary Pat can mention it and encourage participation via a morning announcement. Julie also to ask for teachers' help in encouraging students to write short articles about classroom activities.
 - There was consensus that implementation of Everyday Math is going well overall.
 - More work can be done to explore getting computer access to more students.
 - With regard to helping identify safety strategies, it was noted that a KidPower assembly will be held on April 2. The Site Council agreed to share the cost of this assembly with the PTA. It should be noted that Nixon students come from a variety of neighborhoods, and the assembly should reflect that reality.
 - With regard to meeting the needs of English learners, it was noted that we should remind parents that translation is available on the Nixon website.
 - Teachers obtained valuable ideas from a regional conference on teaching gifted students.
 - More work needs to be done on using the TACKLE process to identify children needing additional help in language arts.
 - Mary Pat is to look more into facilitating more games on the playground using numbers in play.
 - With regard to promoting general health/fitness, Nixon had an excellent Soul Shoppe assembly at the beginning of the year, but more needs to be done.
 - The parent education meeting regarding Nixon's efforts to teach conflict resolution was useful but not well attended. Nixon should look into sending out reminder magnets/bookmarks with the lifeskills. Perhaps also we could have a "conflict

resolution” tip of the day on the website or in Nixon News (tip of the month)?

Agenda Item 5: District Survey for All Families March 8-20

- Mary Pat suggested holding on a Nixon-specific survey and use the information generated by the District survey. If we need to supplement these results, we can do so at a later time.

Agenda Item 6: Recruitment of New Members for Nixon Site Council 2010-11

- Julie to put a notice in the Nixon News regarding the process for nominating oneself for the Site Council. Deadline should be approximately May 1 so that final voting can occur by the evening of International Night.
- We should see if the PTA nominating committee can assist in identifying individuals for this role.