

Minutes from the School Site Council Meeting - December 8, 2011

In Attendance: Kerry Dees, Chair; Harlan Suits, Secretary; Chris Marchetti; Kortney Kaa; Chris Uskert; Nan Hirahara; Peter Tao and MaryAnn Purvis

1. **Reviewed Single Plan for Student Achievement.** Chris Marchetti presented hardcopies and summarized school goals and actions to achieve those goals in the areas of reading comprehension, writing, math, response to intervention (special ed), differentiated learning (including gifted and English language learners), use of technology, and health. This document is required by the state. Action: Review plan and bring further questions/comments to next meeting.
2. **New Health plan at Fox.** Chris Uskert discussed the new program for health education at Fox based on a book of teaching materials called The Great Body Shop. The materials, which cover a wide range of topics such as first aid, healthy eating, and respiratory health, are differentiated by grade and include interactive materials, homework for family participation, and have the added benefit of encouraging skills in critical thinking and decision making. Previously, it was up to each teacher to find/develop health materials, and the staff feels this program will be a significant improvement, including appropriate ways to discuss topics such as mental health with young learners.
3. **Math Common Core Standards.** Chris Marchetti handed out the 23-page K-12 California's Common Core Standards for Mathematics and explained how this 2008 program resulted from a state governors' study that found U.S. students were too rigid in their thinking with regard to applying mathematics to real-world situations. These new standards are designed to develop more flexibility in thinking and more emphasis on real-world applications.
4. **Parent Surveys/Education Nights.** The council is considering organizing some evening "parent ed" programs to help parents interact more effectively with their children's' education at Fox. A first step is to conduct a parent survey to gather information on the best topics for the ed nights. Chris presented a parent survey that has been used in the past at Fox as an example. The initial survey discussion raised two questions: What is the best to incentivize survey participation? At what level should the parent ed nights be aimed—toward the more active parents or to capture the lesser-active parents? Kerry Dees agreed to head up the committee and Chris Marchetti and Harlan Suits will also participate. Action for committee: gather information on school surveys and meet as a separate committee on this topic in January.