

Minutes from the School Site Council meeting on 1/26/12

In attendance: Kerry Dees, Chair; Harlan Suits, Secretary; Chris Marchetti; Kortney Kaa; Brandon Whiteman; Nan Hirahara; Cheryl Liu, Gary Paulazzo, MaryAnn Purvis

1. **iPads at Fox.** Brandon Whiteman, a K teacher at Fox, demo'd how the iPad is being used at Fox to augment learning. Fox has 10 iPads (4 plus 6 more provided by a donor). The PTA supplied tech money for headphones and apps. Brandon has taken on the task of exploring the potential of iPads at Fox and he uses them regularly in his class, where his students use iPad apps for phonics, e-books, arithmetic and more. He sees it as another tool in teachers' toolboxes for reinforcing key concepts. Smart boards are not compatible with iPads (not yet, at least).
2. **Parent Survey/Parent Education Nights.** Chris Marchetti presented survey results: 184 returned, print and online. Based on areas of high interest, we decided on organizing four parent ed nights before summer:
 - a. **Math**—how to help your child improve math
 - b. **STAR testing**—to be scheduled far enough in advance of actual Star testing to be beneficial to parents
 - c. **Preparing child for middle school**—high rankings in parents of 4th and 5th graders.
 - d. **Reading**—in order to allow other more time-critical ed nights to be scheduled earlier in the year, it was decided reading would be a good topic to feature late in the school year to help parents who might be interested in summer reading projects/plans for their child.

Action: Chris M. to settle on dates for the four parent ed nights and to identify instructors.

3. **Student Benchmarking/Intervention.** Chris Marchetti reviewed the process by which Fox identifies students who are having trouble achieving grade-level work standards. Students at risk are identified in the Sept-Oct timeframe, and intervention plans involving teachers, student and parents are implemented and monitored throughout the remainder of the year. There was discussion of the merit of providing more benchmarking of student progress to parents earlier in the spring so that parents have more data on where their children are heading as opposed to "here is where they ended up for the year."
4. **Discussion of PTA-Site Council Integration.** Kerry Dees argued that closer cooperation would be beneficial. Issues discussed included: Can we integrate PTA and SSC better? Are parents interested? Chris M. will gather information on how other schools address this issue.
5. **Future topics.** Chris M. encouraged attendees to think about what other issues they want the Site Council to address this year and email them to him so they can be put on next meeting's agenda.