

SALMON BAY Building Leadership Team (BLT) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 - Principal's Office

Agenda: Minutes, Budget (still),

In attendance:

Administrator: Neil Gerrans
IA Rep: Nancy Gruber
Specialist Rep: Markos Weiss
2/3-Team: Dave Middleton
6th Team: Katie Hayes *
Cascades (7/8th): Jeff Callahan
Parent Rep: Jeannie Cziesla

Office Rep: Caitlin Racey
Library: Linda Illman
K/1 Team: Amy Gross
4/5 Team: Brian Williamson
Olympics (7/8th): Connie Gold
Parent Rep: AJ Silva
*Acting Chairperson

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!

1) MINUTES: With 2 corrections, the 3/10/15 minutes are approved and will be sent out.

2) BUDGET:

Neil handed out two sheets of budget comments collected at last Wednesday's all-staff meeting.

Basics – After looking at staff input sheets, it is clear that we aren't quite 'there' with the budget, yet. Today we have a couple of new budget options to consider. VC positions are still in flux, but we are getting closer to sorting that out to continue at the current level. The parents' FOSB contribution will likely increase slightly to include our Guest Teacher (Mary K).

AJ and Jeannie conveyed interest from the parents about increased student math options. This was followed by a discussion that included confirmation of the significant math changes that have been put in place this year at the middle school level, and the addition of Panther Time for after school support. Neil explained some of the limitations of SPS dollar allotments, and the need to manage changes to staffing thoughtfully to meet the wide variety of student and community needs. Further math improvements will continue to happen as we allocate dollars to create more offerings with the staff we have. Increased staffing is very expensive; the \$100,000 - \$112,000 funds we are proposing to request from FOSB is a LOT of money, but would cover slightly more than one Full Time Employee (FTE) teaching position. Dollars don't go as far as we would like. The budget options BLT members and others have built represent our 'best attempt' to balance our needs and budget. Jeff C. offered that some of the Professional Development dollars in the budget could be used for math differentiation training. Neil added that he's gotten some positive indications - though no guarantees, - that we might get that .5 funding he requested from The District. IF we get that money, it could possibly go toward math. In general, there was significant staff recognition of the major changes in math structure that

Neil has put into place this year, noting that new math groupings created mid-year represent the a significant change of direction in middle school math, and involved considerable thought regarding some of our deeply held philosophies.

Basic review of new budget options:

Brian built an option (4) that included input received after the Staff Meeting that included 1 .5 Counseling; .1 nursing; .8 reading specialist (includes .2 coordinating outside tutor program); .8 Music, 1.0 Art; 1.0 Drama; 2.0 PE

Neil built a budget option (5): this option includes 1.5 Counseling; 1.0 Art; 1.0 Music; 2.0 PE; 1.0 Drama; .6 Reading Specialist. He also eliminated Tutoring program and included Music Artist in Residence (Mary K).

Markos gave input from his team: Mariah (Nurse) outlined the significant health issues in our school, which could best be addressed with increased nursing hours. He also advocated for 2.0 counselors, and felt strongly that 1.5 counselors is going to significantly impact the services our kids receive. Nancy reiterated her support for increasing the nursing time, even slightly.

Time ran short. Neil invited those who could to join him at middle school lunch and/or after school to take a stab at refining these budget options in preparation for tomorrow's all-staff meeting. Depending on how Wednesday's meeting goes, we may meet again Thursday morning, March 19th.

Action Item: Any members able are invited to meet during middle school lunch, or after school for continuation of the budget conversation.

Submitted by Nancy Gruber