

SALMON BAY Building Leadership Team (BLT) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2015 - Principal's Office

Agenda: Minutes, Next Steps Budget

In attendance:

Administrator: Neil Gerrans

IA Rep: Nancy Gruber

Nurse/Counseling Rep: Markos Weiss

2/3-Team: Dave Middleton/absent

6th Team: Katie Hayes *

Cascades (7/8th): Jeff Callahan

Parent Rep: Jeannie Czesla/absent

Office Rep: Caitlin Racey

Library/Specialist: Linda Illman

K/1 Team: Amy Gross

4/5 Team: Brian Williamson

Olympics (7/8th): Connie Gold

Parent Rep: AJ Silva

*Acting Chairperson

1) MINUTES: from 3/17/15 not quite ready yet, will be approved via email and sent out.

2) BUDGET:

Neil started with a thank you to the members for sticking with this really tough, but important, budget process. A final budget must be done and turned in to SPS by next Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

All Staff Meeting Review: At the All-Staff meeting yesterday, 3 budget options (options D, E, and F) were submitted for discussion and a vote. The options had many similarities, but they varied slightly in the amounts allotted for: Counseling (from 1.5 FTE to 1.8 FTE), Reading Specialist (from .5 to .6), and Art/Music instructors (from .8 to 1.0). After discussion and voting, Budget Option E was eliminated. D and F both had fairly strong support (17 and 25 votes, respectively), but neither one got the needed 2/3 votes to be a clear winner.

'Next Steps' Conversation:

Connie Gold indicated that several staff members had asked if we could come up with a process to communicate more specifics about the two remaining options D & F, to help staff in the next vote. This dovetailed nicely with Neil's plan for us as a BLT to create a 'Support Statement' for each remaining budget option to further clarify the option details for the wider community.

AJ voiced his concern that the options presented don't fully address the math needs he brought up at our BLT meeting on Tuesday. After some clarifying questions/conversation, one main concern he had was the lack of dollars allocated in either D or F for the University Tutor program which he felt would/could address some math needs. AJ expressed clear appreciation for the complexity of putting together such a limited-dollars/multi-needs budget, but felt that some ongoing concerns with math don't seem to be represented or included. Neil assured the group that math matters to him and the school, and he and several other members noted that

we have actively been making changes to create math options for kids. Caitlin made the point that, although there isn't a line item for 'math support', the increased art/music allocations increase the scheduling options for core subjects, including math. Katie added that the Levy monies were also able to go to math, as well as the .5 FTE we (hopefully*) will get from the district, which will be used for math staffing. Jeff reminded everyone that the PD built into the budget, could also be used to improve math instruction. Neil reiterated that all BLT members were encouraged to build budgets using the online tool and to speak up and offer ideas about budget options and we want all members to contribute ideas freely.

With time running short, and the need for a "Next Step", Neil refocused the group to consider the two budgets we have at hand. We took a quick whip around the room and asked each member to select the budget option he/she supported. Nearly every member expressed some level of difficulty in making the decision – especially about counseling and Reading Specialist allocations, and Markos continued to provide strong advocacy for keeping as much counseling as possible in place. We discussed the options briefly, then took a straw poll, with an outcome that favored Budget option D. (1.5 FTE Counselor, 1.0 Art teacher, 1.0 FTE Music Teacher, 1.0 FTE Drama, 2.0 FTE P.E. Teachers, and .6 Reading Specialist) with more than 2/3 majority.

We will have another all-staff meeting next Wednesday, but will need to meet again next Tuesday morning, 3/24/15.

Submitted by Nancy Gruber

** Sadly, the District turned down our additional .5 FTE request, so we will not be getting these funds.*