

SALMON BAY Building Leadership Team (BLT) Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2015 - Principal's Office

Agenda: Minutes, Team Updates, Budget/Scheduling

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

Pre-Meeting opened with a quick whip around the room to hear snippets of team news, then Linda called meeting to order in Katie's place at 7:25.

1) Minutes: Some of the SpEd programs for next year are already changing, so we will insert language to reflect that the programs listed in 2.10.15 minutes are tentative/ proposed. Otherwise minutes are approved.

2) Updates:

Neil shared a pamphlet on bullying and behaviors that the counseling team have been putting together, and updated us on the Homework Club that started this week. Linda added a 'shout out' to Gail, too, mentioning how nice it is to have a co-working partner in the library.

Jeff asked about focus for this meeting, and Neil indicated that we will do some preliminary budget conversation after the team updates, but he noted that the "Gold Book" (a document that outlines types of funds allotted to schools and the guidelines for use of those funds) isn't coming out until Thursday, so we won't know many budget specifics until then.

Dave reported that he has looked at the Smarter Balance (SBAC) testing materials online and has concerns about the material. Brian added that he thinks the SBAC is an adaptive test, which (hopefully still) means that the difficulty of the test questions will change depending on answers the student gives. We're not sure at this point what the range of adaptation is for the SBAC since it is so new and tied to the Common Core learning standards. 3rd graders will take the test in March. Jeannie asked how parents would be notified about the upcoming test and Neil reminded us that Superintendent Nyland talked about it earlier in the year, but more will come from us soon. Nancy added a hope that we would identify and use consistent names for this test (Smarter Balance? SBAC? Etc.) – and other programming – so that community members (parents/staff/kids) can better understand which tests are which. As we move forward,

we'll just have to see how it all rolls out, but Neil assured us that we are not changing our curriculum centered on standardized testing at this point.

Jeff raised concerns from his team about Bring-Your-Own-Device (BYOD) technology use concerns, specifically phones. Markos agreed and both hoped for more consistency around technology use for staff and students. Linda reminded us that the social contract covers some of this with the agreement that "I will follow directions." Now, we just need to establish and roll out the specific use guidelines. That said, Linda emphasized that, even with a policy in place, each classroom teacher must be clear about the expectations in his/her space. Neil offered a preliminary list of clear rules that can be presented along with Linda's Technology Use Policy draft. Parents also need reminders that contacting students during class is disruptive to the classroom environment.

Action Item: Neil and Linda will finish creating BYOD guidelines for distribution/implementation.

Markos wants to further discuss homeroom/advisory use and plan. We need more 6-8 planning time to get on the same page.

UPCOMING SCHEDULING CONVERSATION: (Neil)

Will we have a 6 or 7 period day? Will HR stay as a separate period, or combine with core class groupings? With Common Core in place, will Language Arts classes in the middle school continue to be multi-age? Lots to think about before we create a master schedule and budget. Elementary has been discussing similar issues regarding looped classrooms. In order to build a schedule to a specific budget, we will need to make these decisions soon. Currently at middle school, in the 7th 8th grades there is core content 2nd-5th periods with electives at the end of the day (6th & 7th periods). While this works pretty well there, it negatively impacts K-6th grades. In order to address this, we will need to build at least one possible schedule with un-blocked classes. This would allow us to make better use of specialists (drama, art, music, etc.) more evenly throughout the day. Katie noted that some of this discussion would be driven by exploratory assignments. Neil would like to have another foreign language class offering, if possible, as well as Algebra (Hien) in house and a 'walk to math' option for geometry at Ballard High School. Some of this could be possible at lower grade levels, but is challenging with only 2 teachers at each elementary grade level. Does this mean we need a math specialist? Depends on how we use our funds. Right now we are using discretionary dollars in a lot of areas. We could use more staffing next year in: core certificated, counseling, music, art, library, nurse, reading specialist, math specialist. These kinds of staffing changes would drive approximately (sheer estimate!) \$150,000. These additions would definitely impact our schedule and budgeting for next year. It was noted that the current (much loved) program with Mary Kay does positively impact the social/emotional environment and culture of the school. As Neil sketched possible schedule/budgeting options for next year on the white board, the possibilities seem broad. Neil is hoping to have us focus on Class Configuration at the staff meeting tomorrow, so that he has a better notion of staffing needs for scheduling/budgeting plans. Several folks volunteered to jump in to start tackling 'scheduling' tomorrow.

Submitted by Nancy Gruber