

School Governance Council May 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

- Jen Jefferies
- Sue Ellen O'Shea
- Ali Penick
- Kathi Hughes
- Nancy Lamb
- Sharlia Gilman
- Esme Lombard
- David Gomez
- John Wilkins
- Linda Walsh
- Sabine Schweizer
- Katie Chase

1. Afterschool Programing for 2017-2018

After the Bell has agreed to take Marvin Elementary School. They are also taking on Wolfpit. The ability to take on 2 new schools is a concern as well as the transition of the program. We need to make sure they hire the appropriate people. There will be an exit interview with Achieve. There will be a meeting with After the Bell on May 22nd. There will be a site coordinator hired.

Try to obtain Achieve's list for After the Bell to communicate with.

2. Budget Update - Mrs. O'Shea.

Today the School District froze the 2016-17 Budget for all schools. Mrs. O'Shea is working on the list of items they wish to purchase and ask for a waiver to spend the money that was frozen. This prevents hiring and ordering.

With respect to the budget shortfall now Marvin is getting \$6000 per student. The budget balances as long as another class is not added. K registrations are at 52-54 students. We would like to keep 4-sections of K rather than 5.

Rule of thumb is 72 per grade level to have four sections. 1st into 2nd has 68 students. Worried that we may lose a 2nd grade.

One option is to do a combined age classroom.

3. Communication with School Community and Media

a. Letters - Mrs. Jefferies and Mrs. Mangone

Jen Jefferies wrote a rough draft to the parents after the last meeting. But things may have changed and therefore the contents of the letter may need to be revisited. Jen passed out the letter for review.

Mr. Wilkins thinks the letter is necessary given the messaging of the current administration in order to ensure that the school's position is understood and supported by the community in the ways it can.

It was suggested to add a fundraising element to the letter (perhaps through DONORS CHOOSE) so that the school can be the direct beneficiary of needed items, supplies and funds.

This would also help alleviate the PTO until they achieve their 501(c)3 status.

There was a suggestion to start an alumni association for Marvin students. Seek donations from Marvin graduates.

Print a letter for the Art Show on May 11th notifying parents of what the SGC is doing and ways that parents can help.

It was suggested to reach out to other SGC's to try to align for a stronger voice to align message.

Marissa is trying to get someone from The Hour to come to the Walk-A-Thon to promote Marvin. If it rains, it will be the same schedule but more spread out.

4. FLES Update - Mrs. Schweizer

Since ATB is being considered as an after-school program, she will reach out to them to build a language program into ATB. Sue Ellen recommended going slow for the first year.

Parents could pay extra to supplement what ATB offers.

5. Cafeteria and School Lunch - Mrs. Schweizer

We've learned that it is a district wide contract. Is there a way to back out of the contract? The Superintendent has requested a healthier choice.

Greenwich uses this: <https://www.greenwichschools.org/departments/food-services/menus-and-meal-prices#MENU>

Westport uses this company:

http://www.westport.k12.ct.us/uploaded/site_files/www/Food_Services/District_wide_newsletter_2016-2017_website.pdf

https://www.westport.k12.ct.us/uploaded/site_files/www/Food_Services/Newsletter- May.pdf

New Canaan uses: <http://www.ncps-k12.org/domain/309>

Darien uses: <http://www.darien61.org/parents.cfm?subpage=1512905>

6. School Compact - Mrs. Walsh

The school compact is completed and needs to be translated into Spanish.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Fundraising for Art Supplies Budget

It was raised that the PTO may have money left over for Mrs. Talboe for art supplies. Create AMAZON wish list or registry where parents can directly contribute; the issue with that is items in bulk. There was a suggestion to use DONORs choose.

It was raised that there is no budget for music (Mrs. Skloot) and that maybe we should be looking at putting money toward music.

b. Members for 2017-2018 SGC

We discussed who may be staying and going.

David mentioned that he could not continue because he was taking a teaching position at NHS.

Jen will send Mr. Osborne an email to confirm. SGC needs at least two more parents.

If you miss more than two meetings you are off automatically.

Seeking a Spanish speaking parent, Jen will ask Erica but she will be helping the PTO.

Another parent suggestion is Lorena Carrillo

We will need two or three depending on Mr. Osborn's position.

- 7 parents
- 5 teachers
- 2 community members
- Principal

Other

There will be over 100 kids here for Summer School. Teachers will be working from 9-1, students will be here from 9-2.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51.