

1/20/17 PS 199 SLT Minutes

Members in attendance:

Andrea Steinkamp
Anu Sehgal
Danielle Cione
Ellen Shultz
Enrique Gonzalez
JoEllen Schuleman
Kirsten Loderer
Liz Sutherland
Peter Rockwitz
Rachel Baer
Robert Schlaff
Scott Oscher
Victoria Kopper
Wendy Hutter

Guests:

Nancy Deakin

1. Parents as Partners (PaP)- many slots were filled for the 8 workshops being offered on the evening of January 26th. Scott will send out a reminder 2 days prior to the event to those who signed up. The RULER presentation will be in the cafeteria after the workshops and is open to everyone. Louise will make the introduction to the RULER presentation.

2. Field trips and future coordinator update- Victoria needs someone to replace her as trip coordinator for the 2017/2018 school year. She will write something about it for Louise to send out to the class parents.

3. Survey update- Anu took the feedback from the SLT and will send the final version of the survey to Andrea and Liz next week to put on Survey Monkey. She would like to have it sent out around January 30th. There is a question on the survey regarding Parents as Partners. Scott hopes the survey is filled out by those parents who did not attend PaP and hopefully we can find out why not.

4. Homework /Reading logs- (this is a continuation from our last regular SLT meeting because we did not get to finish the discussion). Liz said that parents she has spoken to seem to understand why jotting and reading logs are important but are concerned about the overall time taken to do homework, particularly in Grades 3 to 5. Children work differently, and what takes one child 5 minutes may take another 20 minutes. We need to communicate more clearly that classes within a grade all do the same work but how a teacher decides to distribute that work across class time and homework can be different. Nancy shared how her own 2 children approach homework differently. She is concerned her 3rd grade child is losing her joy of reading because of the jotting.

Victoria agreed there can be struggles to get homework done.

Louise said jots are very important. She says it is the heart of our curriculum. She hears we need to communicate to the children more clearly about what a jot is. She also said perhaps there is an easier way to fill out reading logs.

Danielle said parents should talk with their individual classroom teacher if their child is struggling.

Kirsten is concerned about why a child is resistant to certain practices.

5. Professional Development (PD)- Victoria shared that parents are confused why some teachers are out of school for professional development. Louise said we do have more PD this year because it was part of our CEP (Comprehensive Education Plan). She noted 1st grade teachers are getting a lot of PD this year to support curriculum changes, plus there are new programs in other grades that are being rolled out and also require PD.

Ellen suggested perhaps the class parents could let parents know when the teacher will be out for PD. There was discussion about the value of this as it was stressed that teachers prepare for their absences and leave detailed lesson plans for substitute teachers.

6. SLT By Laws- Liz said the By-laws are due for review. She will work on draft revisions and send them out for the SLT to review before the next meeting.

Submitted by Ellen Shultz, SLT