

VAN NUYS MIDDLE SCHOOL
A California Partnership School
SHARED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: 03/17/2008

TIME: 3:15 P.M.

LOCATION: Family Center

In Attendance: Dr. Barner, D. Phillips, B. Teixeira, A. Mansur, J. Clemmensen, C. Harris, G. Kommer, R. Rosales, M. Hayes, J. Phillips, C. Tizcareno, Y. Walker, E. Schroepfer

MINUTES

- I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:15 by Dr. Barner.

- II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The February meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

- III. AGENDA APPROVAL: Several items were added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

- IV. STUDENT LEADERSHIP: Mrs. Schroepfer addressed the committee, proposing a week of student “egg” activities. After some discussion, the committee agreed that there would be an egg toss contest for the 7th grade homerooms, conducted on Thursday, April 2. Dr. Barner expressed some concern that the use of real eggs would present opportunities for unwanted student behavior. Mr. Clemmensen assured the committee that real eggs have been used in the past without incident. The key is close monitoring. Dr. Barner agreed to the use of real eggs with the stipulation that Mr. Clemmensen will pass on his strategies for successful monitoring of the activity. It was agreed that Mr. Banke, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. J. Phillips, and Mrs. Schroepfer would conduct and monitor the activity.

Mr. Phillips and the student council representatives reported there will be an El Pollo lunch on March 19th for the high sellers in the candy drive. There will be a birthday jamboree on March 20. There will be a limo ride on March 27 for the grand prize winner of the candy drive. Our next school dance will be held on March 28.

- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Dr. Barner reported that recyclables are picked up from our campus according to the following schedule: Wednesday – trash pickup; Monday and Thursday – blue containers (recyclables) Dr. Barner also reported that our trash cans are out of compliance. New trash cans with steel lids will cost \$26.35 each.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rosales reported that the updating of our network to make it wireless will commence immediately. The updating will also increase our bandwidth and hopefully eliminate some of the difficulties teachers are experiencing with programs such as Compass Learning and Vantage Writing. The first phase of the project will see a 7'x7' trench dug on the front lawn of the school. This work will be conducted during and after school hours and should be completed within 10 days. During the second phase, technicians will work in specified classrooms. This work will be done after school and should be concluded within 45 days.

Mrs. Harris reported that an unidentified teacher had expressed her concern that the support staff in the Dean's office was engaging in negative talk about teachers with students in the office. A discussion ensued, in which Mr. Hayes expressed his opinion that the office is being flooded with students. Teachers are sending students down for minor infractions, and failing to follow the established protocol. Mrs. Phillips suggested that the Dean's staff is young and the students talk to them. This is not necessarily a negative. The committee agreed that teachers need to follow the school's progressive discipline protocol. Rules need to be posted, and consequences spelled out.

Mr. Kommer expressed some concern that our template for team meeting agendas does not serve us well. After some discussion where Mr. Kommer presented a sample template, it was decided that he would work to develop a more practical agenda template. Dr. Barner will help in refining the final document.

Mr. Mansur shared his opinion that incoming opportunity students are presenting a disruptive force in the classroom.

Student Run LA was granted permission by the committee to do a fund raiser during Open House in order to fund water and nutrition for student runners.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

Mr. Clemmensen reports that we are basically out of money in our 4170 fund. Mr. Clemmensen also reported that we will be conducting our Shake '09 practice session on Friday, April 24.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Teixeira reported that John Stippick from Vantage Learning is available to do a staff development PD on writing across the curriculum, using computer technology. He also asked the committee if we should schedule a PD focused on the CST preparation, so that teachers can focus on all of the materials that are available to be used in preparing students for the test. It was agreed that The CST preparatory PD will be conducted on April 21, and the Vantage PD will be conducted on April 28. Our CST administration instruction will take place during period-by-period meetings with teachers.

EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Philips reported that a new copier will cost \$8,600, which is not a viable option at this time.

SCHEDULING COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Garcha was not in attendance. Dr. Barner reported that we will have a CST related minimum day on April 24.

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:

The next Discipline Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, after school.

ACTION ITEMS:

Teachers are reminded to supervise from their doorways during passing periods.

A draft of the CST Schedule for May 11 – 15 was discussed. The DLA portion of the test has been broken down into two days of testing to alleviate some of the burnout students experience from having to read long pieces of text.

VII. SETTING OF NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2009.