

SSC Minutes Sept. 30

Charles Young, Joyce Sanborn, Karen Angel, Paula Richter, Mary Ferweda, Tim Lester, Laura Harris, LeeLee Cusenza

1. Welcome to Tim Lester and Laura Harris, introduction of continuing members

Minutes-

2. Review Binder—see SSC binder containing 2009-2010 budget that was revised and since has been revised.

Charles explained there is far less money to be allocated (\$70,000 to \$23,000) due to the budget cuts. Charles explained his opinion that he believes the SSC is a good venue to discuss the school program and have child-centered conversations. The primary purpose of SSC is to approve school wide educational goals and to allocate the necessary and available funds to support the goals

Categorical Funds are identified as a level 1, 2, or 3. Depending on the identified level, different funds are either less flexible (need to be directed to a specific program) or more flexible and can be placed in areas of most immediate need. The SLIP (School and Library Improvement) funds are of the most flexible tier and are therefore utilized to cover other district expenses.

In Spring the SLIP Plan was made based on a budget of approximately \$45,000, down from \$70,000 and has since been dropped to \$23,061. We had a \$10,000 from carry over from last year which had to be allocated to the district office to cover district wide expenses due to budget cuts.

This year district-wide, a total of \$45,000 of state student support money has been allotted for the before and afterschool intervention program in math and reading. Last year, thanks to proactive planning and a willing staff, Walnut Grove spent \$11,000.00 for these intervention programs. The intervention program has been very important in helping more students succeed and contributes to our strong STAR scores and high API. The Reading Specialist's Program as well as a program supporting Kindergarten students through K teacher collaboration, have been very critical additional interventions.

Laura Harris asked if there was a way to know more precisely what next year's budget will look like, which would allow us to plan for any shortfalls? Charles said we won't know what the budget is for some time and with the economical challenges state and nationally, allocations appear to be a moving target.

A question was asked whether a fee could be requested to cover the cost of the before and afterschool intervention classes. The answer was that user fees can be difficult to set up and we don't want to exclude students from additional services based on need.

Much of the meeting was spent brainstorming ideas on how to budget the during-the-school-day intervention aides for grades 4 and 5. Most members expressed the tremendous value of this program for meeting individual needs.

Intervention Hourly Pay -- Aide Salary Range 8 -- \$15.21 hour Post position at 20 hours per week, otherwise benefits must be paid

4-5 teachers needing 2 hour minimum aide time. Members shared a preference for having one aide rather than rotating them through classes

Staff expressed their gratitude for the awesome job done last year and which make a difference for many students.

Parent member expressed the opinion that we need to move on a decision about funding the Intervention Aide and the concern that we are already starting later than usual..

Dr. Young felt that the aide could help coordinate parents with credentials that would be interested in serving as intervention teachers.

Dr. Young proposed that:

\$18,000.00 be allocated to fund 1 during-the-school-day Intervention Aides for grades 4/5.

\$4000.00 for the before and afterschool intervention program (\$5000.00 additional will be allocated for this purpose by the PTA totaling \$9000.00, only \$2000.00 less than last year for before and afterschool intervention)

\$1065.00 for miscellaneous items.

Mary made a motion to support the above proposal made by Dr. Young. Tim seconded. All members made an aye vote in support of the proposal.

Goals—In SLIP plan binder, refer to page 12 in last years plan, goals will carry over to this year.

Staff shared that having five more kids in the classroom makes a big difference for getting to needy kids.

New district math adoption in grades K-2 requires tech. smart classrooms. PTA has allocated funds to help with this effort.

Environmental Scan--Be forward thinking, our desired future state, articles etc. to provide opportunities for discussion on being forward thinkers.