

**Redwood School Site Council Minutes
February 22, 2022 via Zoom Meeting, 3:30 pm**

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm.

Members present: Nicole Judd, Dawn Jacobson, Laura Detweiler, Nancy Joly-Cause, Tracy Sims, Corine Musgrove, James Cook, Stacey Wasson, Zachary Snow, Greg Saltzberg, Roya Klaidman, Christine Evangelista, Carrie Halvorsen, Melissa Crawford, Angie Biehl, Margo Tameris, Chakameh Azimpour, Chanise Spencer, Rachael Brusseau, Jennifer Rodman-Plost (guest)
Absent: Paola Vargas, Adam Payne, Patricia Aguirre, Niki Wikstrom, Lanisha Sunday

I. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Melissa Crawford made the motion to approve the January 18, 2022 minutes. James Cook seconded the motion. Motion carried – January minutes were approved as read.

II. Public Comments: None

III. Student Report: read by Laura Detweiler

1. Cases were decorated for February.
2. Classroom Rep Meeting was held February 4th.
3. February Birthdays cards were distributed.
4. February Birthday Grams are being distributed throughout the month.
5. Semester 2- a new group of 6th graders joined the ASB class.
6. 6/7/8 ASB classes worked on January and February Publicity:
 - January
 - January Dress up Day- Kobe Bryant Day
 - COTY- Western Day
 - LTA: Corn Hole
 - February
 - Happy Chinese New Year
 - Happy Counselors Week 2/7- 2/11
 - Join the Black Student Union
 - Outdoor School
 - Kindness Grams for sale 2/7-2/17
 - Pink Shirt Day (dress up day)
 - Black History Month/ Publicity/LTA- Black History Month Trivia 2/11
 - Rock Your Rams/ Jersey Day- 2/11
 - COTY- Marvel v. DC 2/25
 - LTA's Hungry Hippos- 2/25
7. School Tours continue.
8. Kindness Grams were sold at Nutrition and Lunch 2/7- 2/17.
9. Kindness Grams will be distributed Wednesday, 2/23, during 4th Period.
10. Pink Shirt Day Activities will be provided for Advisory Classes; WEB leaders will be guiding the 6th graders in these activities.

11. Preparations have started for Teacher Appreciation Day.
12. The Winter Social was canceled due to uncertainty; we have rescheduled it for April 1st.
13. Promotion Dance Plans are underway.
14. WEB Leaders visited classroom Feb. 10th and 17th.
15. Leadership lessons continue in 6th and 7/8 ASB classes.

IV. New Business: None

Mrs. Judd made a request to the SSC to move the presentation for agenda item VI a, "SPSA progress monitoring – NewsELA and Whooo's Reading" to be discussed ahead of Committee Reports. All SSC members were in agreement of this.

VI. Principal Update –

a. SPSA progress monitoring – NewsELA and Whooo's Reading presentation by Nancy Joly-Cause and Laura Detweiler.

Ms. Joly-Cause is the Redwood English Department Chair and Ms. Detweiler is one of the Redwood Edge teachers.

NewsELA – Ms. Detweiler presented findings on results of using this program

- Both Ms. Detweiler and Ms. Joly-Cause believe that Social Studies and English are entwined and work closely together on the curriculum for these subjects.
- Feedback from 8th grade teachers was mixed – positive and negative.
- Feedback from 7th grade teachers was that there was not enough time to incorporate NewsELA into the curriculum.
- For assessment, the same article was given to 6th, 7th and 8th graders, but the assessment was different based on the grade level. Teachers were pleased with the effort that all students made; 99% of the students got the general idea of the article and made connections. There was a lot of student engagement.
- NewsELA has multiple benefits and can be used online or offline, for classwork or homework. It can also be used for citing sources. How it is used depends on teacher preference. Some teachers prefer to print the article and have students annotate by hand.
- One year of assessment is not sufficient. Anytime a new platform is analyzed, 3 years is needed to assess comfortably and thoroughly.
- The pricing structure will be changed. What was mostly a free service to us became a paid service. If we continue with this subscription, we will have access to an expansive library.
- Some history - NewsELA has been around for a while and started off as a current events platform. It became popular with teachers, and as it became popular, NewsELA added to their database. They are now taking more of their free content away, but they are also adding value, so the teachers still feel it is value for the money.
- A summary of Data Analysis and Recommendations was presented, including a SWOT analysis – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats was

changed to “Enough Time” for “T”. The last 2 years have not been quite enough time to learn something new, or has been just enough time to learn something new.

- The teachers believe NewsELA will need to be evaluated over time. Teachers have provided feedback that they would like to spend more time with this platform next school year.
- Ms. Detweiler and Ms. Joly-Cause would like us to purchase a NewsELA School Site License for next year. The subscription would travel with the student, so is not per class. Pricing will either be at a certain level or school wide, meaning students would be able to access NewsELA across subjects. The teachers would like to expand access to science teachers, but NewsELA can even be used for PE.
- Mrs. Judd noted that our SPSA Goal 5 is our Learning Loss Goal, and reminded the SSC that this was part of our big purchase. The total cost would be \$8400. We have specific verbiage in our SPSA describing the value that a tool like NewsELA will bring to students.
- Mrs. Judd asked Ms. Detweiler and Ms. Joly-Cause to speak to how NewsELA will attach itself to our learning loss goal.
 - The teachers commented that reading loss often occurs in writing and reading, so they chose to utilize the reading and writing components of NewsELA, rather than the short quizzes it also provides.
 - When learning loss was being evaluated, the teachers went back to the basics of assessing whether students were able to pull out the main idea of the article. This was the emphasis of the assessment given at the end of the year in Social Studies, not in English.
 - For English, the English department was asked to pull papers from all different levels when trying to establish a baseline. Students are now all reading, so a baseline can now be established.
- Each article can have multiple reading levels. It was eye opening to see how the students’ reading levels jump between grades, especially between grades 6 and 8. We are now able to compare data specific to our school using this tool. Analysis just began the week before the February SSC meeting, and will continue for a while in order to get actionable results.
- Mrs. Judd will later talk about the District LCAP which is on a 3-year cycle, so 2021-2024, and suggested that we keep our SPSA goals on the same cycle, in parallel with the LCAP.
- Carrie Halvorsen asked whether the District had shown interest in purchasing this, instead of us purchasing, due to COVID-related learning loss. Ms. Detweiler was not sure. She looked into having the District purchase this last year for us but they did not give approval for this.
- Roya Klaidman asked how a parent would gauge the success of this program. The teachers replied that this would have to be done over time and is a process. For example, in 6th grade, they are starting at the paragraph level, and students are being asked to process reading comprehension. The goal of how we are using this tool isn’t the service itself that is provided, but the way the teachers are using this to help meet their ultimate goals for the students.

- Ms. Detweiler shared that application of how NewsELA is used is very important. For example, one of the chosen topics was US and Greek Democracy. As most students had some pre-existing information about these topics, the teachers were able to build in success for the students as the students were more confident in the structure of their writing having knowledge of the topic.

WHOOO's Reading – Ms. Joly-Cause presented findings on results using this program

- This is a new program that Corrine Musgrove gets a shout out for researching for us to bring in.
- The teachers had talked about this for a few years as they found that student time spent on independent reading is decreasing and teachers have been discussing what can be done about this.
- Some may be familiar with Accelerated Reader in Elementary School. This program provides very literal questions with obvious answers. Redwood teachers were looking for a tool that would give more insight, because anything used ad nauseum can lose its value over time.
- Feedback received from grades 6, 7 and 8 included –
 - Any teacher can set a reading level goal for a child. The recommendation is to set this at grade level, so if a child is reading at a 3rd or 4th grade level, they can be tested at that level then be bumped up.
 - The tests consists of 3 literal level questions and the rest are reading comprehension questions. This can be used with any book or any article on the internet. You simply input the kind of article and the tool provides the questions that are appropriate for that type of article and that level.
 - A copy of one of student's quizzes was shown. Interestingly, the program coaches the student as they go along answering, e.g. "do you really want to say that?", or "do you want to show more evidence from the book?" The program will tell students if they are not writing or analyzing enough. The teacher can also go back and re-evaluate the score, if they think the answers are way above what the teacher would expect.
 - Parents can also monitor their child's reading in this program.
- A SWOT analysis was also performed as was done for NewsELA.
- We went through a very lengthy process to have this approved by the District, so this was approved in October and was not available to share at Back to School Night.
- From the feedback received, this program seemed most appropriate to be used for 6th grade and ELD.
- Mrs. Judd asked whether any feedback was received from special education teachers. Ms. Joly-Cause said no as they did not participate this year, but she would love to add them in to purchase this for our SPED classes as well.
- This program is not provided via a site license but by a class license. For 6th grade and ELD, it would be around \$1500. The more classes added, the lower the price becomes, and is around \$125 per class.

Mrs. Judd passed the meeting back to Greg Saltzberg to move onto the next item of Committee Reports.

V. Committee Reports:

1. DAC (District Advisory Council) – report provided by Carrie Halvorsen.
The last DAC meeting took place on January 11, 2022. The following items were discussed -
 1. The next budget and LCAP meeting will be held tomorrow, February 23.
 2. Kenny Loo shared a lot of information at the January meeting. Parents asked whether 7th graders would have a chance to go to Outdoor School. Mr. Loo said not at this time due to not having enough outdoor specialist staff, but the District may consider having the 7th graders go in the fall when they are in 8th grade.
 3. The District is looking at opening campuses for community use again but no date has been set as yet.
 4. As soon as District school board meeting returns to being in person, all other District meetings will have to be in person, including all of the DAC meetings. We are unsure of whether this includes SSC meeting as well. Mrs. Judd will look into this. She noted being at a meeting where it was discussed that virtual meetings might be kept as an option. Carrie was not sure whether this aligned with the bylaws. Mrs. Judd noted that she has been able to attend many more of the DAC meetings as they have been in the virtual Zoom format.
 5. There was a presentation about student achievement and achievement loss. This was examined from all levels, elementary (ES), middle (MS) and high school (HS). It was difficult to get a good picture about our MS students from all of the information shared. It was reported that 27% of all students in MS had at least 1 D or 1F at end of the 1st semester. Our English Language learner student percentage was much higher than our other student groups at approximately 75% with at least one D/F grade. It was also reported that class sizes in general are down.
 6. The 2nd part of presentation will be given at the next DAC meeting.
 7. DAC representatives were asked to fill out a survey with thoughts and suggestions about what they think would help learning loss. Carrie is open to input from all of us as our DAC representative. Please reach out to Carrie with any ideas you may have.
 8. The last part of the student achievement assessment noted that Math scores in middle school seem to show an overall improvement this school year. We do not know how many students took the achievement assessments last year compared to this year. There are still a lot of unanswered questions still with regards to that data.

2. GATE DAC (Gifted and Talented Education District Advisory Council) – report provided by Melissa Crawford.
The last Gate DAC meeting took place on February 4, 2022. The following items were discussed -
 1. GATE screening for 4th graders and referrals has been completed. There were 227 newly identified GATE students. For reference, there are 1576

GATE identified students in our school District which is about 9% of total enrollment. Melissa will contact Ms. Jacobson for the names of new Redwood GATE students so she can reach out to them.

2. There will be GATE screening for 3rd graders at the end of February; results will be analyzed around April.
 3. An interesting presentation was provided by Sonia Wilson and Jayna Suter on Math pathways in MS and HS. Melissa made a request to have same presentation provided for all of MS and HS, because as the parent of a GATE identified student, it was very informational for her, as well as for parents of students that are struggling with Math.
 4. PI day will be March 14. Links for Melissa's report are included in the report that she sent to Mrs. Judd and will be provided in the DAC Smore update.
- Mrs. Judd believes we had 4 new students identified as GATE.
 - Rachael Brusseau shared that says that the discussion in the GATE DAC was very good. They will also have a similar discussion at a later time for English and Social Studies as well. She agrees it would be a great idea to have Sonia Wilson and Jayna Suter come and share a presentation with us, to look at the pathways and how to crossover and get ahead depending on what parents are interested in.
 - Mrs. Judd agrees with Rachael. Stacey Wasson came to a recent Principal's coffee and talked about Math pathways for parents. Feedback from parents was that as parents of rising 6th grade students, they would have liked to have this information before the school year began. Sharing of this information District-wide would be beneficial. Melissa agreed, and noted that this information would be beneficial even for parents of 5th graders, because you need to understand these pathways to know how to prepare as a 5th grader in the Fall to take the Math Challenge exam. Links to this information can now be found at the District website.
 - Tracy Sims noted that she and Ms. Zasadil have started going to 5th grade feeder schools. Discussion of the Math pathways is something they have added to their presentation now that registration forms and elective forms are online. They have also added their presentations online so parents can access these as well. This talks about the Math pathways as well etc.
3. ELAC (English Learning Advisory Council) -
The last DELAC meeting took place on January 30, 2022. No report was provided as Patricia Aguirre and Paola Vargas were absent.
 4. SEDAC (Special Education District Advisory Council) – report provided by Rachael Brusseau.
The last SEDAC meeting took place this morning, February 22, 2022. Key points of discussion and updates were as follows –

1. Erica Johnson , director of SPED gave presentation on Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
 2. The Spring transition fair will be March 5, 9am -noon. This provides opportunities for parents, teachers and students with disabilities to learn about the transition to adult life and provides support to help them to prepare.
 3. Extended school year will take place from June 15 – July 13. CVUSD is planning to use same sites this summer as previously used. K-8 instruction will be at Madrona, and high school at TOHS.
 4. The SEDAC Celebrations Committee have created a resource flyer to be attached to their newsletter and to be used as a teaching tool as to why disabilities simulations are no longer being done in the District. This committee is also working hard to create toolkits for schools to use for Unity Day, acceptance days and other similar celebrations.
 5. There are a couple more workshops left for students who learn differently – college workshops, for students with ADHD, anxiety, depression, IEPs, etc. There is one this evening at 6pm called “Navigating the College Search” . and one on February 24 – through Moorpark College and CLU.
 6. VCOE will have an Equity Conference on March 22, 2-5pm. This will be a virtual workshop that will address diversity, equity and inclusion practices.
5. AADAC (African American District Advisory Council) –
The last AADAC meeting took place on January 8, 2022. No report was provided as Niki Wikstrom was absent and Chanice Spencer had to leave the meeting early. The next meeting will be on February 25.
6. LGBTQ+ Advisory Council – report provided by Margo Tameris
The last LGBTQ+ meeting took place on January 26, 2022. The following items were discussed -
1. The next meeting will be on February 23.
 2. The VCOE Equity Conference will be on March 22, 2-5pm. More information to come on this.
 3. Human growth and development video screenings were held on February 3. These are now online if parents are interested in viewing them.
 4. There was a lot of discussion about making gender neutral bathrooms accessible to all students at all sites. Kenny Loo assured everyone that the goal is to ensure this eventually as an option, but as space is limited, this is a significant financial commitment to create new bathroom spaces.
 5. The main focus of meeting was discussion and desegregation of the CHKS data from the last collection period and how this can be used to better meet the needs of students in specific populations. The discussion focused on criteria that committee felt would best fit LGBTQ+ needs.
 6. There was also some discussion about bullying and harassment and protocols for reporting this. Some voiced concern about being to remain anonymous without having to go to the District level. The current protocol

seems to be that if someone wants to report harassment on their school site, it is difficult or not possible to remain anonymous.

- Mrs. Judd shared that what was found is that students in general do not feel comfortable bringing concerns to an administrator or adult on campus, so the District wanted to create an avenue for students to be able to report harassment without giving their name, and remaining anonymous and confidential. When the District receives a report about an incident at Redwood, the District calls Mrs. Judd to discuss and Redwood does their best to investigate with the information they are provided, which would not include the reporter's name if this was not provided.
7. Library access to books for ES children that have representation of a variety of individuals with different needs and abilities and orientations was discussed. There is a list being compiled now and will be presented to Ms. Ashmore for review.

VI. Principal Update:

Nicole Judd shared the following information –

- a. SPSA progress monitoring – NewsELA and Whooo's Reading presentation by Nancy Joly Cause and Laura Detweiler – discussed earlier in the agenda – see notes above.
- b. Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) Presentation -
 - We are getting money from the District which is earmarked to deal with pandemic learning loss, so feedback is needed as to how best to use this for our students.
 - ELO-P will be provided for TK – 6th grade. Expanded learning can be before and after school, during summer, inter-sessional, over spring break, winter break or anytime outside the regular school day.
 - ELO-P should be no less than 9 hours, and can be offered during all school days and 30 inter-session days. It can be provided at one or more sites.
 - We are required to serve at least 50% of our unduplicated students, i.e. EL, foster, SSE disadvantaged, and by 2023 will be required to offer this program to all students.
 - This program has to have an element of tuition help, and we can partner with community programs. Some ideas of how to do this are –
 - Partner with Boys and Girls Club – they already have programs. Sonny Wilson is our new director for our Boys and Girls Club at Redwood. Mrs. Judd is in process of exploring how we can partner with them to do this.
 - Use CRPD to do something for the students between sessions. They can only accommodate 50 students, but perhaps we can sponsor 50 students to participate.
 - Do our own program on site – either get a certificated teacher to do

- will be no April meeting.
- May and June – start reviewing and analyzing our actions as an SSC team, through department meetings and through leadership.
- Over summer – work on these and get them written up.
- September – present to SSC to get feedback on how SPSA goals look, and request approval.
- Mrs. Judd will also be reviewing what year all SSC members are in to determine what positions may need to be replaced etc. We will discuss this more at the next meeting.

VII. Assistant Principal Update: No update provided as Mrs. Vargas was absent.

VIII. Dean of Activities Update:

Dawn Jacobson shared the following information –

1. She is pleased to share that Redwood will have a bookfair, March 10-11. It will be open before and after school. Parents can come by in person to shop, or purchase through Scholastic. Parents are encouraged to reach out to volunteer.
2. On March 11, 6th grade will be having their Greek speeches. This is a special time on campus, where 6th graders dress as figures in history and present as if they are that person; they have to research and be able to speak like that person. The current 7th graders did not have this opportunity.

IX. Old Business: None

X. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm.