

LOS CERRITOS MIDDLE SCHOOL
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2020

IN ATTENDANCE:

Present at the meeting were: Jason Klinger, Kim Budy, Sonia Dritz, Gweneth S., Austin M., Dawn Gould, Jamie Bryant, Morgan H., Ashley B., Kourosh A., Julia Blietz, Gina Sillers, Karen McCarthy, Andrea Mettel, Kim Michaud, Rocio Perez Turijan, Nancy Crellin, Brandy Pacheco, Elissa Francis, Jen Wutkee, Diana McBride, Georgi Harden, Dina Langhorne, Pamela Valance

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:33am.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved as written.

Student's Report

6th Grade Rep – Morgan Humphrey:

- In Math, we are learning about ratios in Ch. 5.
- In Science, we have a test coming up on Ch. 3 its going to be on changing Earth's surface and water erosion.
- In English, we are learning about grammar and different types of sentences.
- In Social Studies, we just started learning about Greece.
- In Leadership, we are in the middle of making posters about our goals we have inside and outside of school.
- In PE, my class just started a 3 week basketball session.

6th Grade Rep – Ashley Bryant:

- In Leadership, before the break we started 2 new projects.
 - The first one we did was a Big Hero 6 project and every table group had a different perspective from the movie, then you needed to find how their perspective applied to the movie. For example, some of the perspectives were to look at things with a different angle, don't judge people by how they look, and many more. We had to make a slide show in our group's then present it in front of the class.
 - The other project we are still working on is Mindset Monday. For Mindset Monday we picked our groups and have to present a slide show on the word "courage" and what it means.
 - Last, we made reindeers out of candle canes then gave them all to the teachers and staff.

7th Grade Rep – Gweneth Snowden:

- In Math, we started our unit on circle calculations.
- In English, we started reading the "Mango Shaped Space".
- In Social Studies, we have just started learning about the early Middle Ages.
- In Science, we are finishing up our unit on cells.
- And lastly, in PSST we are finishing our presentation on Juno projects (It's hard to explain but it has to do with leadership).

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7th Grade Rep – Austin Maziasz:

- I am learning a lot this year in all my different classes.
- In Science, we are learning about the structure of DNA and how it forms.
- In Social Studies, we are learning about early medieval Europe.
- In PE, we are on our ultimate Frisbee unit.
- In English, we are learning about sentence structure and grammar which I think is a nice break from our usual weeks of lots of writing.
- In ASB, we are getting ready to plan our LTA which so far has been very hard because we mostly disagree about what to plan.
- Finally, in Math, we are learning about circles and how to find the radius, circumference, and diameter which so far seems like the most challenging unit.

8th Grade Rep - Drew Rosen:

- Not present

8th Grade Rep - Kourosh Apfelthaler:

- It has been a great break and excited to be back.
- In PE, we are playing ultimate Frisbee and running the half-marathon.
- In Choir, we are preparing for Festival.
- In English, we are writing a team essay on Identity, and interviewing Los Cerritos students on what is the most influential on their identity.
- In History, we are learning about political development in the early republic of the U.S.
- In Spanish, we are finishing our unit on food and we are working on a project where we order or cook food from a Spanish-speaking country.
- In Science, we are learning about metals, semi-metals, and non-metals.
- In Math, we are working on simplifying and expanding problems with exponents.

Counselor's Report – Karen McCarthy:

- Started the new year with enrolling eight new students – we are now full in 8th grade.
- Still working on newsletter and hopefully will go out today.
- This week we are revising registration forms for 6th, 7th, 8th grade – simplify them.
- Starting this month going out to elementary schools. First visit is on Jan. 25th to MATES.
- Putting together a girls group at lunch time – Breakthrough is coming out. We have had trouble getting commitments and parental approval so it's put off each week.

DAC Report – Dina Langhorne:

- Missed last month so passed around the Census 2020 information from last DAC meeting.
- Dina shared the Counseling newsletter at the meeting for School Site Successes.
- BOE – approved two proposed literature titles - for 7th grade “Forget Me Not” was approved.
 - Spoke about recognition of WHS and NPHS student athletes. We have a NPHS student who is a Cross Country national champion and the boys’ team won the national championship as well. First time ever!
- Budget Report – we are currently operating in a deficit – so district is reviewing and discussing efficiency and efficacy in our district.
- Conejo Schools Foundation – Read list for Cash for Conejo – encouraged teachers to apply for grants that are still available.

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- Our District was awarded \$75,000 from the Kenrose foundation, will be spent on mental health in our district.
- Also spoke about Sparkles Cheer, Ted-X and All District Band festivals that happened last year.
- SEDAC – Inclusive Schools Week was a success.
- New Federal program implemented called CalABLE – savings account.
- GATE DAC – spoke of gate testing that took place in December.
- Measure I – planning for next year is in the works. They are reviewing expenditures, cumulative spending, improving their by-laws and proposed meeting more frequently.
- Library was closed and had reduced hours for holidays. For New Year – encouraging high school kids to get engaged. They are visiting high schools at lunch and doing activities with those kids. The City is creating a general plan called “Get Involved” for the library so more people know about it.
- UACT – 6 teachers went to the San Diego for the New Educator series – was a success.
- They had a long Calendar discussion but nothing revealed.
 - The 2020-2021 calendar was approved. Is posted on the CVUSD website.
 - Klinger will send a copy of new calendar to all parents.
- Reviewed over 1000 school choice applications – closes on January 31st – let people know that it is not first come first served.
 - February 25th will be the elementary school lottery. Klinger mentioned that most high school and middle schools applications are approved.
- Elementary school textbooks are being piloted – there will be a decision made for next year.
- Had a lengthy discussion on DAC ByLaws.

SEDAC Report –Andrea Mettel:

- Discussed December’s School Inclusivity Week and how it impacted students. Emotional meeting – reps sharing what happened at their school and about their child.
- Graduation committee – still gathering data regarding 504 and IEP students’ graduating celebratory events for students who don’t go through traditional graduation. Looking into creating events for them.
- UACT mentioned Good Teaching Conference –looking for teachers who want to attend.
- Dani Anderson, Exec. Director at Independent Living Resources – available for presentations at all schools. She is a great resource for kids with disabilities. Dani’s contact info: danderson@ilrc-trico.org, 805-963-0595 ext. 108.
- Medication refrigeration was discussed – when power outages occur what is the procedure? The District is looking in to the legality and how to handle medication when power outages occur. We do have multiple diabetics who have insulin. In power outages, is medication safe, does it have to be immediately removed and refrigerated? Medications are expensive and when power goes out it can be a loss.
- Presentation by Samantha Stuart, runs Unified Sports and Young Athletes program – inclusion through sports. Available at all the high schools and a few middle schools. They also host basketball, soccer and have a Sparkles Cheer squad. Program is a huge success.
- Public Comments – spoke to the importance of inclusive schools week.
- SEDAC chair reminded everyone of the CalAble accounts – special needs accounts are for students with disabilities to save money so they don’t lose their state funding.
- TOHS shared new program called Newsela – their PTSA invested in program. Teachers are raving – takes any reading material, current events, news and breaks down to any Lexile level.
- District says they have a huge turnover with speech therapists so they are starting to investigate using Tellis speech therapists.

GATE Report – Julia Blietz:

- December meeting had a Census representative, Justine Fisher – she talked about the census and why it is important. Children often go unlisted in census, it impacts funds allocated by government. Undocumented families are scared to participate. Census awareness needs to be presented to school children.
- Long presentation about first Lego League – Earths magnet did first Lego League – very time consuming. Our Rep from Earths led a presentation about it. Very successful, ran by parents.
- GATE testing – I did it at Lang, it went pretty smooth. Most of the test is computerized – all 3rd graders were tested. And two 4th graders. All schools should have completed testing. Will find out at next meeting when results should be available.
- Next meeting Jan. 10th – will find out results from GATE testing. Parents have to opt in for testing. Non English speakers are not sure what the test entails.

ELAC/DELAC Report – Rosario Perez Turijan:

- ELAC meeting will be on January 23rd.
- DELAC meeting was on December 17th.
 - Dr. Martinez gave us a presentation about ELPAC.
 - Justine Fischer talked about Census 2020.
 - Sonia Wilson gave us a presentation about Parent Engagement Policy.
- Next meeting will be on January 28th.

PSTA Report – Nancy Crellin:

- Had general association meeting yesterday - elected our nominating committee for next years' board. They will be working over the next couple months putting together the next slate of officers for next year's PTSA board.
- On January 31st – will host a mid-year PSTA staff luncheon.

Boys & Girls Club Report – Georgi Harden:

- The club was only open 2 weeks in December.
- Members organized a Smash Brothers Switch tournament that lasted over a week. As a group, morning members decided that the winner of the tournament would get to pick the next Switch game that the Club purchases.
- Our dance session wrapped up, dancers still busy with staff AJ. They did a lesson on cultural impact of dance and members examined different dance styles as well as things that influenced these cultures. At the end they all got to draw things that influence them, and we displayed it at the club.
- The torch club went on two caroling field trips to local senior homes. Members enjoyed singing their favorite holiday songs and spreading kindness to others.
- Getting ready for new enrichment classes to start next week.

Principal's Report – Jason Klinger:

- Klinger passed out the D/F report from Trimester 1. Broken down by grade level, by subject and by some of our sub groups.
 - Report showed about 114, 11.8% total students who got D/Fs. Total population is at 962 students. Discussed results. Data was sent to all departments.
 - Sonia asked if there was a certain pattern or populations who had more D/F's? The highest number of F's were in 8th grade (largest class). The most D's were found in 7th grade.

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- Looking into factors for the Ds and Fs and why students are struggling. Lots of factors.
- 7th graders took a California Science Test – results were passed out. We have no idea what this test encompasses.
 - This is the only test that covers all three science standards (earth, physical, and life sciences).
- Outdoor school paperwork for 6th grade families going out Jan. 24th – packets will be sent out. Session 1 will go March 24th - 27th and Session 2 will go March 30th - April 2nd.
- CAASPP Testing – Mrs. Pacheco working hard on developing the testing schedule. Will do 2 sessions.
 - Session 1 will start Mar. 25th thru April 2nd (7th and 8th grade English students will go first). Session 2 will start after spring break (6th grade English and 6th thru 8th grade Math students). 14 total block days. Science is incorporated in that.
 - An all-call message will go out before testing.
- Received a Memo from the state – need 95% of students to take the test. Adding teeth to 95% requirement starting with this springs test. Anything less than 95% will negatively affect our next Dashboard.
 - Do parent opt outs go against participation – yes.
 - Will be calculated for all student groups which can also hurt results.
- Klinger sent out new blackboard test text message – sent before break. If parents didn't want it, they needed to opt out. Don't want to overuse it but it will be used for simple messages.
- High school registration for 8th grade families – on Jan. 30th high school counselors from TOHS and WHS are coming to speak to 8th graders during Social Studies classes. Start registration in B&G Club. That night will be parent talk to answer questions and give general info.
- PTSA Reflections – we had 5 students attend the County competition. One student who qualified and won will go on to State competition. One second place finisher and 3 honorable mentions.
- Mrs. Michaud – Activities coming up -
 - Westlake WAVES Lacross will be coming out Friday to do a demo and tryout in the gym during lunch.
 - Since we have had 22 new students – we will host another newcomer's lunch on Jan. 23rd. ASB will do it with Crew 6 since we have a lot of new 6th graders.
 - Blacklight dance will be on Jan. 24th at Teen Center (they are closed for LC students).
 - The morning of Jan. 24th will have Student of the Month Breakfast for students who were recognized up to December. Invitations will be sent out.
 - Winter sports begin on the 30th. We have 2 girls basketball teams (7th & 8th grade), 2 boys volleyball teams (7th & 8th grade). This year we have 4 Mamba volunteer coaches working with teams this year.
 - Currently exploring ideas and activities to do for 8th grade promotion dance.
- Looking at ways to support at risk kids who are athletes.
 - One idea is to invite High School athletic administration to come and speak to 8th graders. Do a presentation about the realities of being a high school student athlete. Will put something together around Feb. or March. Inviting families to see what it's all about.
- Dina asked if the PTSA Honorary Awards will it happen next year?
 - Yes, it's been added to PTSA appointed position. Need to pick a date for that.

Old Business

No old business to report.

New Business

- Discuss Student Concerns – Gwen
 - No trashcan in girl's locker room – now there is.
 - Opening bathrooms outside for period 1 thru 4. Weighing convenience vs safety. Not going to open outside bathrooms due to safety.

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- Weak hand dryers – Klinger tested, not powerful but heated. Jason was looking into more powerful dryers – they go for \$400 per unit. Too expensive.
- Lockers next to portables - when they move lunch area to between gym we might be able to put some banks out there but won't happen for few years.
- The 6th grade stairwell – changed to allow 7th and 8th graders to use during periods 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 because 6th graders do not change classes.
- Homework – needs to discuss further with Gwen. If parents have concern with certain teachers, Jason talks to teacher. Gwen – had teacher offer extra credit, friend did it spent 4 hours and did it perfect and teacher gave student a zero. Sonia - homework seems to go in waves, all in one week, then one week nothing.

Public Concerns

None

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35am.

Respectfully submitted,
Gina Sillers, SSC Clerk