

Redwood School Site Council Minutes

May 14, 2024

Redwood Library, 3:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

Members present: Nicole Judd, Heather Dingbaum-Maires, Denise Lucarelli, Dylan McKenna, Kristi Keener, Zachary Snow, Lucy Lombardi, Dawn Ott, Carrie Halvorsen, Nicole Updegraff, Alison Friedman, Meghann O'Weger, Nicole Mikals, Roya Klaidman

Absent: Nancy Joly-Cause, Rachael Brusseau, Cesar Villanueva, Caitlin Gregory, Megan Goebel, Linda Figueroa-Bertetti, Tracy Sims, Laura Detweiler

I. Approval of the Minutes

- R. Klaidman made a motion to approve the March 26, 2024 minutes. D. MacKenna seconded the motion. Motion carried – March minutes approved.

II. Public Comments

- No public comments

III. Student Report – Provided by Tristan Bergmann-Petersen.

- Game/Ball Check out continues to be available Monday through Friday, located now by the PE locker rooms because lunch tables were moved
- The March Madness lunch tournament was a blast! We had a crowd for the final game on the basketball courts. Thanks to our referees, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Benton, Mr.Zasadil, Mr. Carmer, Mr. Fred and Mr. Fick, who made the tournament possible.

- Spring Social was a hit, and we had a lot of students of all grades attend.
- 3/22 was a COTY Disney Day, where students dressed in their favorite disney attire.
- Guess That Movie LTA was held on Friday 3/24; students had to guess the Disney movie based on what emojis were shown.
- Classroom rep meetings were held on 4/12 and 5/3 to tell classroom representatives about school events in April, May, and June.
- COTY - Tie Dye Day on 4/26
- LTA - Donut Disaster was held on 4/26 at lunch; many Redwood students were in attendance and participated in the donut eating contest.
- The week of 5/6-5/10 Redwood teachers were celebrated for Teacher Appreciation Week with the help of PTSA and students.
- May Birthday cards were distributed.
- Publicity for May and June COTYs and LTAs has continued.
- Planning for 8th grade Promotion Dance has begun and tickets are being printed this week to distribute to 8th grade students.

Upcoming:

- We are working with the Gardening Club to plant flowers, veggies, and other plants behind the classrooms by room 22.
- COTY - 5/3 is Hawaiian Day, which is the last COTY of the year.
- LTA - Limbo 5/31 at lunch for the last LTA
- Friday 5/31 will be a reward field day in the afternoon for working well during CAASPP testing
- During the week of June 5th, the Semester 2 COTY winner will have a pizza party in their 4th period class.
- Promotion Dance will be held at the Teen Center on June 9th from 6-8pm.

IV. Boys and Girls Club Report – Provided by Cesar Villanueva.

- No report; C. Villanueva absent

V. New Business

- N. Judd led a discussion:
 - Could we amend the bylaws to the following:
 - Change the number of teachers to 3 instead of 5 because of fluctuating staff member numbers; Redwood only has 23 full-time faculty members who are responsible for 12 hours per year of extra duties. We want them to lead clubs and other campus events for kids, so bringing the SSC representative number down is helpful in that initiative.
 - D. Ott asked if we could get one teacher from each grade level, or at least one from sixth and two from the other grades. N. Judd said we can write with intent but to just make sure we have three, but representation across grade levels would be great. K. Keener reminded the Council that we only have five full-time teachers in sixth grade, which might make that representation difficult at times.
 - N. Judd made a motion to amend the bylaws to reflect the following change: The School Site Council shall have three teacher representatives elected by teachers as opposed by five. N. Updegraff seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Could we discuss the timing of meetings for the 24/25 school year?
 - There is nothing in the bylaws stating we have to meet at a certain time, but we should try to find a time and day that makes sense for all involved. The third Tuesday of the month from 8-9:30 during late start was offered up as

a suggestion. Considerations were discussed, including possible conflicts with morning drop offs, scheduling presenters, and other meetings. After a discussion, the Council decided to leave the meeting time in place for now but changed the day of the week to Wednesday.

- There are DAC positions and Site Council positions still open for next year. Site Council nominations are filled out but the school is still looking for a GATE DAC representative.

VI. Committee Reports

■ DAC (District Advisory Council) – Provided by Carrie Halvorsen

- The DAC meeting was today, and the Conejo Schools Foundation is looking for more parents to be part of the Foundation's music and arts group.
- Mark your calendars for October 5th for a 70s disco-themed event!
- The TO Library summer reading club has moved back to a paper tracking system rather than the app (there wasn't enough participation on the online version). There are amazing prizes this year, as well as a video for teachers to show all the students. It is also on the website for those who are interested in sharing it.
- There were reports given from different DACs.
- There was a public comment about the alcohol policy for school-sponsored events. There was a violation seven years ago and the commenter expressed concern.
- For 8th graders who are taking photography: There is a photo competition hosted by the [Santa Monica Mountains Fund](#) for taking photos over the summer and they would like students to participate.

- There was a presentation on the LCAAP and the new requirements. If there are any red indicators, the school has to address them.

■ **GATE DAC (Gifted and Talented Education District Advisory Council) – Provided by Rachael Brusseau read by Lucy Lombardi**

- Elections were held and below is the list of our new 2024-25 GATE DAC Executive Board members who will begin their roles in June: Chair: Christine Wells; Vice-Chair: Rachael Brusseau; Secretary: Jill Cowdry; Parliamentarian: Heather Nordahl; Member-at-Large: Melissa Kaplan
- Jason Branham, Principal, gave a presentation on the programs, clubs, and enrichment opportunities at Westlake High School.
- Ms. Analise Griffith, Secondary SEL/UDL Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for the CVUSD, gave a presentation titled “Empowering Potential: Understanding the Social-Emotional Needs of Gifted and Talented Students.”
- Upcoming District GATE Activities in May:
 - a) Elementary GATE students that were on the waitlist for our April 25th Bloxels video game creation activity will receive an email with access and instructions to dabble in our "virtual Bloxels class" on a weekly rotating basis through the month of May.
 - b) Universal GATE screening: Follow-up screening measures for GATE student identification will be held on campuses during the school day from May

13th - 31st. Eligibility letters and scores will be mailed home to all participating students the second week in June.

- c) This year's Teen Tech Convention is scheduled for Thursday, May 30th from 12:00 - 3:00pm. 50 spaces will be available for sixth grade students from each of our five middle schools. An email was sent Friday, May 3rd, to all 6th grade GATE families with information about priority registration for GATE identified students. If you did not receive, please reach out to your school principal as soon as possible. Remaining spaces, if any, will be offered to all campus 6th graders on May 10th.
- d) Don't forget to check out this month's [Thousand Oaks Library newsletter](#), which is filled with wonderful upcoming events and resources!
- e) Student Support Services has purchased Noetic Learning LeapAhead! licenses for GATE student participation this summer. LeapAhead! is for students entering 3rd – 9th grade in the fall interested in critical thinking and creative problem solving beyond the regular classroom curriculum. The program is aligned with the common core state standards and offers a “gifted math” option for 3rd - 6th grade. The registration email will be delivered to 3rd - 8th grade GATE families on Friday, May 14th.
- f) Looking for more ways to keep your kids engaged and stimulated this summer? Don't forget to check out the GATE Enrichment/Extension Resources on our district webpage!

g) Our first GATE DAC meeting for the 2024-25 school year is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2024, pending district approval.

■ **DELAC (District English Learning Advisory Council) – Provided by Linda Figueroa-Bertetti**

- No report provided; L. Figueroa-Bertetti absent

■ **SEDAC (Special Education District Advisory Council) – Provided by Caitlin Gregory**

- SEDEC hosted their election, Denise Benic was reelected as Chairperson, Mandy Pollak was voted in as Vice-Chairperson.
- There was a presentation from four schools who have specialized programs on their campus; the presentation covered updates on how the programs are doing, co-teaching at Aspen, the autism support program at Banyan, and Unified Sports at Sequoia. Principals, students and teachers presented. Overarching theme is that it is all going well, and the students are doing well. The District is looking to expand the program; SEDAC asked for more hard data for evaluation.
- There was a curriculum and inclusion report. Students who took tests were below state averages, but most students opted out. Core literature recommendations were made for each grade level. There was a discussion on how many books had disabled characters, and some were portrayed in a questionable and ableist light. The big ask was to adopt neurodiversity-affirming activities, and to start

looking into ways for making that a district-wide priority.

- a) C. Halvorsen asked about the number of neurodiverse students and whether or not the number is increasing. M. O'Weger noted that Identified students are growing, but it's unclear as to whether or not this is due to neurodiversity being previously underdiagnosed.
- There was an LCAAP presentation by Kenny Loo.

■ **AADAC (African American District Advisory Council) – Provided by Nicole Updegraff**

- AADAC has been focused on anti-racism initiatives in the District. There have been an alarming number of incidents being reported, including graffiti on lockers and name calling. The NAACP has gotten involved. AADAC is seeking to create community awareness, and N. Updegraff noted that we have work to do if we want to be who we say we are. District has provided training for teachers, but the question is how we pivot to tackle peer-to-peer relationships. How can we have effective conversations with kids? Ideally we could get some anti-racism initiatives in the LCAAP for this new three-year cycle so as to get everyone on board and on the same page. It would be great to get schools to share best practices and capture data at the District level. Capturing data (via LCAAP) and reported incidents allows schools to know what they are doing is working or not working. Student leadership is really engaged and interested in using their voices and influence to make positive changes and make their campuses hate-free.

- The AADAC is awarding seniors at Seniors Awards Night. These are excellence awards for leadership and community engagement. A total of four awards are going out to seniors, two from Westlake High School and two from Thousand Oaks High School.
 - a) N. Judd talked about what Redwood has done and what goals we have for our campus. There is a No Place for Hate initiative next year, specific language is going into the handbook, and there will be reminders at the rules assembly in the fall.
 - b) Megan O'Weger spoke about her conversation with the ASB kids about changing the the culture of the school.
 - c) C. Halvorsen asked if we can make it part of Viking Camp, to teach kids how to step up and stand up. We should have kids send the messaging about our campus culture and the use of academic language only.

■ **LGBTQ+ Advisory Council – Provided by Megan Goebel**

- There was a discussion about Grades 4-6 Health Education Instruction.
- Information was provided by Kenny Loo and Dr. Heather Chamberlain about Inclusive Training for Teachers and Staff. Some legal foundations and professional responsibilities reviewed were:
 - a) Federal Laws: Title VI, Title IX, IDEA, Section 504
 - b) AB 1266
 - c) CDE Antibias Education Grant
 - d) ADL, Epoch Education, Restorative Practices

- Executive Board elections for the year 2024-2025 will be held at the next meeting. The Nomination Committee will soon send an email requesting nominations.
- The final meeting for the year will be held on Wednesday, May 22, from 9:30 to 11:30am at the University Elementary MPR (2801 Atlas Avenue). The executive board meeting will follow at 11:30am.

VII. Principal Update – Nicole Judd

- There was a discussion and activity with SPSA 24/25 actions for groups who scored in red in any of the six indicators; there were breakout discussions in three groups to brainstorm about how to increase student attendance and decrease student suspension.

VIII. Assistant Principal of Instruction Update – Kristi Keener

- No report

IX. Dean of Student Support Services – Meghann O’Weger

- No report

X. Old Business

- No old business.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.