

Croton Elementary ~ SAC Minutes

November 17, 2020

Members in Attendance: Roseann Bennett, Amanda Hitchcock, Nikki Maginness, Kellye Straub, Donna Lamb

Members Absent: Kelly O'Dell, Peter Vaillancourt, Stephanie Nadeau, Katie Torrington, Lisa Farley (emailed to say she is stepping down)

Others in Attendance: Patricia Jones

Call to Order: A meeting of the Croton Elementary School Advisory Council was held via Microsoft Teams on November 17, 2020. Meeting was called to order by SAC Chair, Amanda Hitchcock at 2:50 p.m.

New Business:

Review/adopt October SAC minutes- Mrs. Hitchcock asked SAC for input on the October minutes. Dr. Bennett asked to change the second "Members in Attendance" to "Others in Attendance" starting with November's minutes. Mrs. Straub moved to accept the minutes; Dr. Bennett seconded the motion.

Parent Leadership Team Report- Mr. Vaillancourt is our Parent Leadership Team representative and was not in attendance. He passed on an update in the form of a slide presentation that contains approximately 50 slides. If in attendance at the next meeting, he will present it in a shortened form.

Sales Sur Tax Update- Dr. Bennett passed along from Dr. Mullins (our Superintendent) a very large thank you to all the parents who helped to pass the Sales Surtax! We did it!

District Strategic Plan-

- a. Two parts of our District Strategic Plan that the district would like us to focus on are Kindergarten Readiness and Third Grade Literacy.
- b. The Third Grade Literacy Benchmark states, "Reading is the most crucial academic skill and the foundation for learning. Through third grade, students are learning to read; after third grade, students are reading to learn. This foundation is essential to preparing students for lifelong success." We feel at Croton that we are working on this area well through classroom instruction and intervention groups.
- c. We do however need to brainstorm ideas for Kindergarten Readiness. The Kindergarten Readiness Benchmark states, "To prepare for kindergarten, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. Early literacy skills, exposure to mathematics concepts, self-regulation, and social skills are key to kindergarten

readiness. BPS is working with our community to provide these opportunities to all students."

BPS utilizes a testing system called FLKRS that can assess how much a student is ready for school. We need to reach out to the community (day care centers, VPK programs, and home learners) to help so that when the students become Croton Cardinals, they have the skills needed. Mrs. Straub questioned whether we are looking at physical activities involving academics that can be used (via printouts)? Mrs. Hitchcock mentioned a flyer that could be distributed to discuss skills (ex. readiness in reading, self-regulation, math, social studies etc.), provide resources, and focus on specific extra skills every other month. This is not to bring students to Croton but more to prepare them better for kindergarten. Mrs. Lamb asked if we could determine where these students attended VPK or day care and where there may be patterns of children that are not as well prepared? Dr. Bennett said she could contact the district for that pattern information. Mrs. Hitchcock mentioned that FLKRS usually sends their test information back to the VPK programs and Mrs. Jones confirmed this. Mrs. Shinn's rate last year was 87% which is very high and reflects that only one or two students were not ready.

Cardinal Conversations- We started our Cardinal Conversation meetings with general discussion last year and parking/car loop issues came up often. We then assigned teams to each meeting to go with a theme and gather feedback on more diverse subjects. Mrs. Jones looked over the PFEP and Cardinal Conversations is something we want to continue. She suggested online meetings. Mrs. Straub felt like more parents would attend if we do it virtually. Mrs. Jones suggested that we can send out a Blackboard Connect to ask what topics to discuss ahead of time. It may be hard to do December unless we choose the first week (December 7th) but we could send the Blackboard Connect this week and give parents until the 31st to input topic ideas so we can have an agenda ready. Mrs. Straub cautioned that masks may be a hot button topic.

Next Meeting- December 15, 2020

Possible Agenda Items

- Parent Leadership Team Report
- Mid-year data review- iReady results will not be available until January but Dr. Bennett should have some Eureka module and science assessment results to share
- Mrs. Straub suggested for Mrs. Schollmeyer to attend to discuss how she runs her science lab virtually

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Hitchcock at 3:17 pm.

Submitted by Nikki Maginness