

Site Council – 11.5.08 - 2008 – 2009 - 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Teachers In attendance: Shirley Madathil (8th grade team),
Dorothy Syfert (8th grade team),
Peggy Karotko (6th grade team),
Molly Hammens (6th grade team)
Pam Schmieding (7th grade team)
Patricia Polter (7th grade team)
José DaSilva (Administrator)
Margot Pillette (Classified Staff)

Parents in attendance: Kim Strahm, Joel Iboa, Joan Kerns

Students in attendance: Sophie DeLoretto-Chuddy, Joel Graves, Molly Poole, Ben Green, Zulema Iboa.

Note: Peter Tromba is unable to attend; Shirley Madathil will be our convener today.

1. **Additions to the agenda (2 minutes)**
2. **Equity Committee Report:** Margot reported looking into prioritizing what students need. They are talking about newsletters, signs in the library, planner, and other written materials being translated for kids who need that support (and their parents) while they transition to using English. They would also like to make the school entry décor to be more culturally welcoming. We have Spanish speakers, but also a significant number of Korean students. Mr. Iboa told us about a place that has a really nice entry called “Downtown Languages” to check out. The other piece of the puzzle is that other cultures bring behaviors here that are okay in their culture, but not looked upon as acceptable here. We want to look at the system we have to bring everyone to awareness of other cultures.

Next Equity Committee meeting will be November 19th.

3. **Climate Committee Report**

Peggy Karotko talked about setting up incentives for 8th graders. It was also mentioned that a game room for kids who want to do games could be set up. They’re looking at data of behavior issues and PBS. We asked students present if they knew what PBS meant. They fell silent. They guessed “progressive being good in class”. José explained positive behavior support to the students and parents present.

Peggy told the kids the types of issues they discuss at Climate Committee: running, picking on kids, and being great. It will be the kid's job to start asking around what kind of prizes the kids would like to have in the M&M drawings.

4. **Parent Committee Report**

Nobody was available from the parent group, but Margot let us know that the Monday meeting, in which a speaker came to talk about drugs and alcohol, was great and very powerful. Mr. Iboa said that the speaker who came was able to relate to the kids on a surprising level.

At the parent meeting they handed out forms for parents to choose future topics, so we'll see what topics they choose.

Also, the parent group is putting on the book-fair until conferences end. The kids can fill out a wish list for parents.

5. **Student Council Report**

Ben Green reported on student council. The students brought up the following issues:

1. Being able to bring a backpack to carry stuff because they don't have enough time.
2. Having a warning bell to get to class that rings 1 minute before class starts so they won't be late.
3. Behavior – cussing. They've noticed that when the 6th graders come in they know quite a few bad words already. The 6th graders look up to the 8th graders so the 8th graders shouldn't cuss.
4. They also talked about more clearly marking the different areas of the school so they make sense and are easier to find. Change from letter designations to colors.

5. Student store back up and running. The students could possibly use M&M's to purchase stuff. It may be ready by after winter break.

6. Why were smoothies taken away from the cafeteria? We want smoothies!

7. They talked about the portrait of a graduate. The students thought the individual should be able to say what they "want" to know.

8. 8th graders want to know what they're going to be doing for the 8th grade trip. Some students generated a list of what they would like to do. Shirley let them know that there are still not enough parents on the planning committee, but that the parents would welcome the kid's input. The parents may not know that they need to plan something because they already received a letter saying that there won't be a trip to Portland, but to somewhere local.

9. They also talked about having school sponsored sports teams at Monroe.

6. Staff Development Requests

There are 2 requests for staff development funds.

- Shirley Madathil and Anne Tomlanovich would like to attend a conference about "Mean Girls" bullying. Shirley is requesting the cost of a sub and Anne, not needing a sub, would like the cost of the registration paid for her. Their total request is \$180.00 and \$129.00 respectively for a total of \$309.00. Feeling that this would approve the school overall, we approved the request.
- Steve Robare requested 2 days of sub costs, plus the amount of \$170.00 registration fee for a total of \$530.00. Steve is checking into paying for a sub some other way. We're looking to fund either \$170.00 or \$360.00. We approve either one or the other. The amount is pending Steve's info.

7. Insert Dorothy's Student Data Report here.

The data we're going to look at is academic – not behavioral. The data was for 8th graders of color and 8th graders in Special Education. Because there were students in the meeting who may not understand what Sped means, Molly gave a great explanation for them of exactly what Sped is.

- **Slide 1** showed 1998-2008 OSAT Reading and Lit scores. It compared Monroe to the state and district. Monroe's scores dropped from 06/07 to 07/08. It dropped a little in the district, but significantly at Monroe.
- **Slide 2** showed the same for Sped and the scores had dropped dramatically for them too.
- **Slide 3** showed scores for all students with a different color for Sped student who participated in the testing. The 6th grade showed an increase in performance from 06/07 to 07/08, but 7th and 8th graders dropped in performance. This was in reading and lit. The math graph decreased drastically for 6th grade and a little for 8th grade. The question was raised that we can't see who was in a Resource room and who was receiving instruction in a General Ed. room. We can't see that from the graphs and averages.
- **Slide 4** showed the intact group, and everyone was down, but we were down here at Monroe more than the state and district. The same was true for math.
- **Slide 5** showed the breakdown by grade and ethnic group. There was a slide for reading and lit and another for math. The scores are a little higher for math than reading lit.
- **Slide 6** showed that kids who only met the standard by a few points in 6th grade will not meet the benchmark by 8th grade if they don't receive attention to increase their abilities.

8. School Improvement Plan / Portrait of a Graduate

9. Grants

ISSUE BIN:

*Grant Writer-locate one. Possibly receive training.

*Review Student Data on Achievement/Demographics/Behavior Data

These just may be the longest Site Council minutes in the history of the world, but it's my first time doing minutes for any meeting – ever – and I wanted to be thorough. Enjoy!

