

Site Council 7 October 2009

Present are staff members Peter, Margo, Asher, Rich, Peggy K, Brian, Patricia and Shirley M; and parents Rick Schaufler, Andrew Healey, and Wayne Reposo.

Agenda for today is

1. Additions to agenda
2. Student council report
3. Monroe parent organization (MPO)
4. Staff development requests
5. School improvement plan

Peter reports on last night's Monroe parent organization meeting, which had elections last night. Also, a plan for a direct drive funding letter came out of the meeting, with the intention of purchasing exciting new computer and multimedia equipment.

Peter answers a parent's question about professional development for the new equipment. He explains how professional development hours have become unavailable in the 4j district.

Return to a topic from last week: a staff development request from Crystal B for money to pay for entrance fee for training. The request should be automatically denied under the present austerity policies. Yet we deem it a bargain, as Crystal planned to take a personal day to make it happen. If we agree to this request, however, then what criterion do we impose on any future requests?

After studying the matter, Peter suggests one possible solution: that we could hand over \$500 of the school budget to the site council for it to allocate. This mechanism would allow site council to pass out some staff development money that would have otherwise have been denied out of austerity.

Discussion ensues. Should site council accept the \$500 to allocate? If we did accept it, would we then allocate money to Crystal's proposal? How about passing Crystal's request on to the MPO? What about sticking to our math goal? Etc. At this point in the meeting, the mood of the site council is to not accept the \$500, and instead put Crystal's request to the MPO.

Aside: Next MPO meeting is November 10th, a week after conferences.

Decision: We affirm the notion that we are not accepting any more professional development requests for this school year. We decide to pass on to the MPO the creation of a mechanism for funding such requests.

Next, the Global Achievement Gap, by Tony Wagner: site council's assigned reading. Peter facilitates our reading circle. Announced intent is to consider adopting some of the author's goals as our school goals.

We read to 5 pm. Finished.