

Minutes of Site Council
Sycamore Elementary School
August 23, 2012

Present: Ken Graff (KG), Principal (non voting member)
Erica Irby (EI), Assistant to the Principal (non voting member)
Sarah Irvin (SI), member
Tiffani Laye (TI), member
Tori Janes (TJ), member
Mary Fosdick (MF), member- president
Rob Edwards (RE), member
Shane Clark (SC), member

1. Call to Order

Mr. Clark called the meeting to order. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Irvin.

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2012
 - a. There was a discussion about Sycamore's ranking in the top 20 in Arizona for 2011 AIMS results (July 16 Minutes #8 b 4)
- C. Reports:
 - a. Member Reports:
 - i. PTA (Parent Teacher Association)
 - Mr. Graff reported there is currently about \$15,000 in the PTA budget.
 - Family movie night will be held on September 7, 2012.
 - The fundraiser will be a read-a-thon that will last two weeks long.
 - The bike rodeo had a slight decrease in participation this year. 108 students participated this year.
 - The next PTA meeting will be September 19, 2012.

Mr. Graff spoke about the Spooky Run that will take place on October 27th. Mrs. DeMarco will help the kids stretch and prepare for the run.

Mrs. DeMarco will also be starting a mileage club for kids. She is also trying to set up a "safe way to school" class for kids.

Pima County did a traffic study on Vista Monte Road (paralleling the school) some years back about putting in a cross walk. The study produced negative results.

b. Administrative Reports:

i. Student Council:

Mr. Graff reported that student council speeches were to be held on August 24th. Positions to fill were President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian. There are 26 students giving speeches. Only 3-5 graders can vote.

The job fair was held last week. There was a good turnout. Kids have turned in applications and are waiting on interviews. The goal is for all clubs to be up and running prior to the beginning of break on September 22nd. Invitations for Honor Society are set to go out.

ii. Science Fair:

The time line for the Science Fair has changed. Projects will be on display in January.

Fourth and fifth graders will present their projects. Kindergarten to third grade is encouraged to participate by completing an individual or group project. - 20 projects are selected from our school. Projects are from 4th-5th grade students. Parent's night is scheduled for the week of September 5th.

iii. After school tutoring:

After school tutoring will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday only.

iv. Benchmark Testing:

Testing will be held the week of September 4th. Students will be tested on first quarter standards in preparation for Parent/Teacher conferences.

v. Blogs:

Teachers are going to transferring to Blogs starting in October.

Ms. Fosdick asked about the opposition to blogs. How will flyers go out on a blog?

Mr. Graff explained that blogs can have attachments. It will be at the teacher's discretion regarding the maintenance/existence of a blog.

Ms. Fosdick further voiced concern regarding the time management of a blog. Will it be better?

Mr. Graff explained that blogs are the way of current culture. Emails will still be utilized for flyers and important information.

c. Facilities Report

- i. Ms. Irby reported that the foam carpet is being replaced at the bigger playground. The PTA is still working on funding the shade structure. Mr. Graff is concerned that the construction should have been done during the summer.

d. Call to the Public

- i. There was no public present at the meeting

e. Recognitions

- i. Mrs. Janes recognized Krista Fields who is filling Gloria's shoes nicely, making it her own in student services.
- ii. Ms. Irby recognized the Student Solutions Team. Teachers act as advocates to recognize/identify student's needs.
- iii. Mr. Graff recognized Tori Janes and the rest of the office staff who put in countless hours for the bike rodeo. He further recognized Georgia Johnson and Ms.

Cronk for Advancement and High Achieving program, creating meaningful lesson, etc.

- iv. Mr. Graff further recognized Pete Laks who passed away over the weekend. He was active in the district, a tenacious bull-dog.
- v. Mrs. Irvin recognized the PTA for the faculty birthday celebrations.
- vi. Mr. Edwards recognized the office staff again and teachers, as always.

2. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items at this time

3. Old Business

a. 2012-2013 Enrollment Update

- i. Enrollment dropped a few to 839 students with 26-28 students per class. 17/18 students per kindergarten class.

b. 2012-2013 Certified/classified update:

- i. Jen Ramirez is set to go on maternity leave. When she returns, she will work only three of the five days. Sycamore is currently looking for someone to work the other two days.
- ii. Special education group is completely staffed.

c. Facilities Update

- i. Mr. Graff explained that there is proposed construction for a five classroom building to be added to the middle school campus. This construction should begin soon and be completed for the 2013-2104 school year. Proposed spaces include across from the Sycamore library or quad area. Ultimately it is middle school space.

4. New Business:

a. School Goals:

- i. Goals- there are four site council goals.

ii Mrs. Irvin reported that the site council needs to keep four goals. Mrs. Laye reported that the science fair goal is not necessarily attainable.

iii. Mr. Graff explained about Beyond textbooks- all teachers are participating and can access posts. The lessons are teacher created. Mrs. Fosdick elaborated on Sharing Knowledge- the successes other teachers have experienced. Sixty districts are participating and adding more.

iv. Ms. Fosdick wants to change website updates to more often than bi-monthly. For example the PTA meetings update.

v. Mr. Graff wants to add situational goals.

vi. Goals need to be brought to next month's meeting.

b. AIMS/SAT 10 Results

i. Mr. Graff discussed the shared graphs. Sycamore earned an A rating. Sycamore scored 144 points, over 140 score an A. Each year Sycamore is showing growth. The previous year there was a 70% improvement while this year there was a 52% improvement this year.

ii. Mrs. Fosdick asked if there was a stipend available for teachers? Mr. Graff explained that there is a \$700 stipend if 2 goals are met- 2 goals must be met and submitted to the governing board. Teachers develop their own goals.

c. Vail Pantry/Sycamore Food Closet

i. 27 families were in need for Thanksgiving and X-mas last year. Drive to start in November. Sycamore is working in conjunction with the Vail Pantry.

d. Tax credit donation

i. Mr. Graff explained that an activity fee is requested-\$1.00 per child to allow for tax credits. Tax credit deductions come from pay roll. \$200 for single household, \$400 for a married household. The state will reimburse. All tax funds to be used for extra-curricular activities.

5. Next Meeting: The next site council meeting will be held on September 20, 2012 at 4:30 in the Community Room.

6. Adjournment:

- a. The meeting was motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded.