

Minutes of Site Council  
Sycamore Elementary School  
July 16, 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  
Mary Fosdick (MF), member- president  
Rob Edwards (RE), member  
Devon Smith (DS), member- clerk  
Keri Harvie (KH), PTA president ( non-voting member)

1. Election of Chair

Mary Fosdick and Devon Smith were nominated for council president. Mrs. Irvin motioned the nominations be closed, Devon Smith seconded the motion. Mrs. Fosdick was elected to site council president.

2. Election of Clerk

Devon Smith was nominated for council clerk. Mrs. Irvin motioned the nominations be closed, Mrs. Laye seconded the motion. Mrs. Smith was elected to site council clerk.

3. Establishment of dates, times, and places for meeting

Site council meetings will be held in the Community Room at Sycamore Elementary School the third Thursday of every month at 4:30. All were in favor, none were opposed.

Rob Edwards motioned for the approval of the time, date, and place for meetings. Devon Smith seconded the motion.

4. Adjournment

Devon Smith motioned the elections be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Sarah Irvin.

## 5. Call to Order

Mrs. Fosdick called the meeting to order at 1655

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Approval of Minutes- there were no minutes to approve at this time
- C. Reports:

- a. Member Reports:

- i. PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

- Mrs. Harvie, PTA president reported on the Sycamore Parent Teacher Association.

- Mrs. Harvie explained that a committee is being formed in the PTA to recognize staff birthdays. The chair of this committee is Andrea Dean and Vicki Goff is the co-chair. The first PTA meeting of the year will be on August 22, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

- There is currently about \$15,000 in the PTA budget. These monies are to be used on a shade structure is currently being negotiated.

- One only fund raiser will be held this year. The Read-a-thon will take place in October and run 2 weeks or so. Last year there was 23% participation, the goal this year is 50%.

- There is also a possibility of selling gift cards which will give a kick back to the school.

- There will be a PTA link coming soon to the Sycamore website.

- The PTA sponsored bike rodeo will take place on August 4, 2012.

- b. Administrative Reports:

- i. Ms. Janes is organizing the bike rodeo to be held on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Tucson Police Department and Corona de Tucson fire department will be in attendance to help out. The rodeo will take place from 8-11 am.

- ii. STEEP testing will be conducted on August 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a school wide reading, writing, and math screening that will help identify who may qualify for Title 1 services. The bottom 22% of 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and bottom 16% of four and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will qualify for Title 1 services.

- iii. Advanced math classes have started. Students were selected based on scoring 90% or better on state wide tests.

Students were also given a grade level math test at the end of last year. The test was based on standards for the next grade level up. This class will take place during reteach and enrich times for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will learn standards from the grade higher than what they are in.

- iv. After school tutoring program will begin August 13<sup>th</sup> and will meet every Tuesday and Wednesday. Tutoring will cover reading and math. Students will be chosen from teacher recommendations.
- v. Mrs. Spies will offer ELP time to Kindergarteners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders
- vi. Spanish classes have begun. Mrs. Ramirez visits each class once a week and teaches grade level appropriate material. She will be leaving on maternity leave during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. When she returns she will work 3/5 of a work week and someone will be hired for the other 2/5.
- vii. Clubs and Activities: August 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for club applications. August 13<sup>th</sup> will be the job fair where applications will be accepted. At the next meeting a list of clubs offered at Sycamore will be provided. A hiking club was suggested. It was also suggested that Ms. DeMarco help prep students for the Spooky Run in October as well as establishing a "healthy" Friday in which all students, staff, and parents are encouraged to walk/bike to school.

D. Call to the Public

- i. There was no public present at the meeting

E. Recognitions

- i. Devon Smith recognized Sycamore Elementary and Mrs. Cronk for establishing the Advanced Math Class. Mary Fosdick also congratulated the Sycamore staff for treating the individual in such a large population of students with STEM and advanced Math.
- ii. Tiffani Laye recognized Larry, the maintenance engineer, who always acknowledges the students and says "hi" to them.
- iii. Devon Smith recognized the teachers and staff at Sycamore for a successful first week of the 2012-2013 school year.
- iv. Rob Edwards recognized the office staff for their upbeat, nice attitudes. He also recognized the drop-off and pick-up personnel.
- v. Mr. Graff recognized the office staff as well- Tori, Melanie, and Christina and all their hard work. He also acknowledged Sarah Irvin, Mikelle Cronk, Ashley Condley and Georgia Johnson for administrating in-service workshops on balanced math and literacy, lesson planning, the data collection process and classroom/behavior

management . Mr. Graff also recognized the Team leaders and all they have done for the new staff. He also thanked the parents and community for passing the override, without it Sycamore would not be able to offer advanced math, P.E., Spanish, etc.

- vi. Rob Edwards also recognized the glorious PTA and all that they do.
- vii. Ms. Irby recognized the new teachers and how well they were adjusting as well as their attendance in new teacher induction and orientation.

## 6. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items at this time

## 7. Old Business

### a. 2012-2013 Enrollment Update

i. Mr. Graff reported that there are currently 894 students enrolled at Sycamore. There are eight sections of kindergarten, seven of first grade, and five of second grade. Grades 3-5 are sitting around 24-25 students per class. The student population projection made in January of 2012 was 883, this is the number that the budget was based on.

### b. Certified/ Classified Update

i. Mr. Graff reported on the staff currently at Sycamore. There are 18 new staff members. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade continues to be housed at Corona Foothills middle school. Also housed at the middle school is ELP and the school psychologist. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be adding a 1 hour para-pro to their staff.

### 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.

ii. The baseball field is being flattened and fertilized as well as the amphitheater will be watered once again.

## 8. New Business

### a. Parking Lot/Cafeteria

- i. The Golf Course parking lot has been approved to help with overflow parking. This can be done until the course is sold.
- ii. The middle school parking lot can also be utilized for overflow parking during drop off and pick up.
- iii. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are using the middle school drop off and pick up to help with some of the congestion.
- iv. The cafeteria is running out of some food choices for those students that are buying their lunch. They are short on staff. There are additional staffs to be hired. Mrs. Laye suggested taking a lunch count each morning to help with this problem.

### b. AIMS/Terra Nova Results

- i. 2011-2012 AIMS reading results; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade fell 7 points, 4<sup>th</sup> grade gained a point and 5<sup>th</sup> grade fell 5 points from the 2010-2011 school year.
- ii. Sycamore scores in reading are still on average 20 percent above the state average. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has some of the lower scores in the district, while 4<sup>th</sup> grade has some of the highest. 5<sup>th</sup> grade fell right in the middle for the district.
- iii. 2011-2012 AIMS math results; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade gained 2 points, 4<sup>th</sup> grade fell 3 points, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade declined by 8.
- iv. Sycamore maintains it's "A" label based on the number of students showing growth. Sycamore is ranked in the top 20 in Arizona.
- v. In writing there was a significant drop in scores, partly due to the changes that were made to the grading process. Students are now graded on a multiple choice section and essay.
- vi. Sycamore had 17 ESL students test last year on only 1 was not proficient.
- vii. In Science, 50% of Sycamore students that took the test scored an exceeding label.
- viii. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade took the Terra Nova test. A bell curve is used to score this test.
- ix. Math scores were down 9%.

- x. The teachers will be reviewing the scores and creating goals based on the results. They will be reviewing those students that didn't perform well and asking how they can help?

- c. Vail Pantry/Sycamore Food Closet

- i. This discussion was tabled until the next meeting. Mary Fosdick motioned for the table and it was seconded by Keri Harvie.

## 9. Next Meeting

- a. The next site council meeting will be held on August 23, 2012 at 4:30 in the Community Room.

## 10. Adjournment

- a. Devon Smith motioned that this site council meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Rob Edwards.