

Minutes of Site Council
Sycamore Elementary School
October 17, 2013

Present: John Carruth (JC), Assistant Superintendent of Special Projects (non-voting member)
Ken Graff (KG), Principal (non voting member)
Erica Irby (EI), Assistant to the Principal (non voting member)
Sarah Irvin (SI), member
Melanie Stewart (MS), member
Mary Fosdick (MF), member-president
Rob Edwards (RE), member
Shane Clark (SC), member
Jennifer Sullivan (JS), PTA president

1. **Call to Order**-Mrs. Fosdick called the meeting to order at 16:05. The motion was seconded by SI.
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance at 16:06
 - b. Ken Graff added Esmond Station to open July 14th – K-7/Growth of Sycamore area – necessity to build on Mary Ann Cleveland – replacement Terry Brooks for Acacia.
 - c. Approval of Minutes, Sarah Irvin moved to approve minutes, MQ seconded.
 - d. JC opened with discussion of Corona de Tucson’s growth and opening of Esmond Station:
 - a. Half of Vails growth comes from Corona de Tucson comprising a 3-4 mile radius.
 - b. 650 homes to be built on Mary Ann Cleveland in the coming year(s).
 - c. Sycamores’ student capacity is currently 1,075 students. Projection for January 2014 is 972. The average yearly gain at Sycamore, based on Corona de Tucson growth, is 60-75 students yearly.
 - d. 3-5 years is projected time frame of when a new school will be built in Corona de Tucson. Therefore, 200-225 students need to go elsewhere other than Sycamore

Elementary and Corona Foothills Middle School – thus Esmond Station will be the alternative for future student enrollees.

- e. There is a projected 1st year enrollment of 400 students at Esmond Station. The schools capacity is 500 students.
- f. Enticements to enrolling at Esmond Station: All-day Kinder classes and busing to the school from Corona de Tucson.
- g. PSA scores and community relations scores are excellent at Acacia and Sycamore, hence principal of Acacia leaving to Esmond Station could lead to people wanting to leave Acacia for Esmond Station.
- h. Three new buses needed for Esmond Station.
- i. Potential for corrections to Esmond errs:
 - i. Open attendance at Esmond Station – change attendance boundaries = targeted busing from Esmond Station for Corona only.
 - ii. Free all-day Kindergarten.
 - iii. New students moving into Corona required to go to Esmond Station.
 - iv. Students have opportunity to be bussed from Corona to Vail Academy and Vail Blended Learning.
- j. MF inquired about plans for busing to Del Lago, Asst.Supervisor said not at this time
- k. JS asked about younger students riding bus with high schoolers, Asst. Supervisor said unknown at this time
- l. MF inquired about cost difference for 2 all-day kinder classes, 20 \$30,000 classified vs certified.
- m. SI inquired if sycamore students bused to Esmond Station would return to Corona Foothills Middle School, Assistant Supervisor replied they would.

- n. SC –new principal may offset Esmond Station, like to offer options. Historical Boundary Changes-no transportation available. Same issues as Corona? Asst. Supervisor said peel off for middle school isn't the same.
- o. KG 95 Sycamore students identified from K-5. Asst. Supervisor said that if we can peel off 100 students that would give good breathing room.
- p. JC stated that symbiosis is important and apparent in Sycamore area.
- q. JC said they will talk to homebuilders about the fact that new home buyers will have to send their kids to Esmond Station.
- r. TJ questioned drawing a different boundary line, JC referred to walking distance.
- s. KG asked for a time-line, JC said newsletters will go out, Open Houses at Esmond Station between now & mid-January.
- t. MF questioned when staff will be met at Esmond Station, JC said soon.
- u. KG closed up this portion of meeting.

e. Reports

i. Member Reports

1. PTA (parent teacher association)

- a. JS stated that Read-A-Thon starts tomorrow. PS-4 & other great prizes including a nook & chromebook.
- b. Spooky Run-150 pre-registered for race on October 26, 2013. PTA will be pre-registering & selling shirts at Corona Fall Fest. Plenty of Volunteers.
- c. JS gave membership report of 98 current members.

ii. Administrative Reports

1. KG thanked Georgia Johnson regarding Intersession.
 2. Buy Licenses for Study Island for students.
 3. Whooping Cough
 - a. 1 confirmed case in August
 - b. 9 confirmed cases in District
 - c. Will follow protocol from Pima Health Dept.
 4. Notified by Bishop Lee-leading LDS meeting house Dr Horton development
 5. Red Ribbon Week
 6. Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards, common core
 7. Community Projects
 - a. Toiletry Bags for Homeless through Ms. Rall's class
- f. Call to the Public
- i. There was no public present at the meeting
- g. Recognition
- i. KG recognized Megan Rall for her work on starting a project of collecting toiletry bags for homeless & having 5 mini-ipads donated to class along with apps.
 - ii. KG recognized Ms. Prater regarding intersession teaching
 - iii. SI recognized Janet Roby & Krista Fields regarding Tu Nidito
 - iv. EI recognized Intersession Teachers & Core Team:
 1. Nicole Gregory, Lauren Prater, Laura Lembrick, Angie DeMarco, Theresa Stone, Krista Fields, Melissa Lanning, Colleen Elkins, Deanna Wilhelme
 - v. RE recognized Jenny Edwards for PTA work.

2. Consent Agenda

3. Old Business

- a. Enrollment Update-955 Students.
- b. Certified-Classified Staff Update
 - i. Alex Reene-taking maternity leave, long-term substitute beginning in November.
 - ii. New Staff Member Esmeralda Saldana, Inclusion Specialist
- c. Facilities Report
 - i. Spooky Run day-100 different community members to help out on Oct. 26th
 - ii. Parking Lot-looking to purchase signage similar to crossing guard signs with wheels

4. New Business

- a. KG said part of Site Council setting goals is to establish good communication via Esmond Station.
- b. A presentation could be forthcoming with Common Core Standards to inform parents as to the transition.
- c. More visibility for Site Council Members
 - i. 2 members present at events.
 - ii. KG to send past goals of Site Council
- d. Spaghetti Dinner on for November 8th
- e. MF-checking out goals for next month.
- f. Sycamore Playground Improvements
 - i. More accessible for children in wheelchairs
 - ii. Possible climbing slide, remove monkey bars
 - iii. Incorporate walking stones & drums, reachable from chair items
 - iv. Suggestion to Remove monkey bars & replace with platforms
 - v. Suggestion to put another board in or massive swing
 - vi. DeMarco looking into a walking track, clean up erosion etc
 - 1. PTA is amenable to helping if funds available
 - 2. JS said that Walmart has to give back \$100,000 to community when they move into an area
 - 3. KG has told parents to seek out grants.

5. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, Nov. 21st at 4:30 pm in Community Room

6. Adjournment