



Redwood Site Council

2/10/10
3:30 pm
Room 120

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Sondheim, Nancy Neu, Robin Lahargoue, Katie Paulsen, Bernadette Rattett, Aaron Simon, Lisa Choy, Jeanette Thorson, Sylvia Jones, Jeanette Thorson, Azita Sayadi, David Zec and Ann Jackson

Members Absent: Michele Hayden, Barry Blue

Agenda Item –Approve minutes from 1/13/10

- Minutes were approved with revisions.

Agenda Item –WASC Midyear

- David S. explained the WASC Third Year Progress Report briefly explaining key points. He stated that it will be finalized in March.
- David S. asked everyone to read over the handout and give feedback. The report brought to today's meeting was so members of Site Council would be clear on the goals of the WASC.
- Robin stated that when Special Ed teachers were able to have subs for two days and had a chance to meet with General Ed teachers it was very beneficial as they talked about better ways to serve the Special Education student.
- Sylvia was at a presentation for faculty and the question was asked "If the group is teaching reading as comprehensive, the reading connects to the speaking and writing?"
- Robin said that for some students speaking and reading out loud are hard. That should be what dictates our goals. Students need to get better at both before they graduate.
- Aaron stated that statement #2 is very strong, he said only #1 and #3 were brought to his attention and the state limits you right away as we have to make sure we are aligned with test expectations. Do we want to be included?
- Nancy said that we can include that in our objective if we choose to.
- Aaron asked if we had numbers of students who check books out from the school library.
- David said he wasn't sure, but could ask Tom Kaun.
- David Z. said that many students forget about the school library. He said he always goes to the public library.
- Bernadette felt it would be good to know how many students use our school library.
- Karen asked David Z. how he uses Redwood's library. He replied that he sees it as a place to go, a place to keep warm and chat with friends.
- Regarding #2, Azita said that more and more teachers have us do Socratic seminars, not just talking and analyzing.
- Bernadette asked Azita if she liked that.
- Azita said yes, sometimes it's easier. If you like the reading it's easier when you see other students reading the same book to talk and share.
- Robin- even if there are 6 books that students read throughout the year, and they do not read them at the same time everyone still reads the same book.
- David Z. commented that it's frustrating when you are the only one who's reading a certain book because you can't talk about it with your peers.

Agenda Item- Pilot schedule Review

- David S. explained that after the winter break teachers, parents and students will be surveyed and invited to share their opinions on how it went.
- David S. said that we have until April to decide whether we want to move forward.
- Azita expressed concerned that the on-line survey won't be taken seriously or even get completed by many.
- Robin asked if the English teachers could give the survey in their classes.
- Aaron commented that if people are interested then they will take the time to take the survey.
- David S. stated that staff is very interested in feedback so he feels people will respond.
- David Z. talked with students in his P.E. class and he said that it was around 26 to 1 in favor of the pilot schedule. They felt it was more relaxed and some of the pressure was gone. Feels classes were more project based. They also talked about changing the Friday and Monday schedules so that all classes met on Friday.
- Robin said that if the pilot is put into place teachers will adapt.
- Jeanette said that most parents and students that she has spoken to like the pilot schedule as it makes them less stressed during the school week and they are calmer. Students have more time in harder classes and can get help.
- Lisa said her student really likes the Smart Period vs office hours. There is more time for most classes. But sitting in a math class for so long gives the students a lot to absorb all at once. Her student liked it overall.
- Aaron feels people need to be able to voice their opinions.
- David S. reiterated that all staff would be able to take an online survey so that they can voice their opinion. At the March 4 staff meeting there will be a discussion regarding the pilot schedule. By March 31, it will be put to a vote. Staff will be given an opportunity to see all the results of the survey when all data is calculated.
- Bernadette is curious as to how we will weigh parents, teachers vs students thought and how it will be taken into consideration. She also hopes that when teachers give input that they will take into consideration the needs of the students not their own.
- Aaron asked "If the staff feels that we should go ahead with the pilot schedule will we have a 2nd meeting to discuss it further?"
- Nancy said it will be facilitated, we will collect thoughts and it is the hope that everyone will have a chance to be heard and given time afterwards to speak.
- Aaron stated that one hour is not long enough to come to a conclusion on such an important matter.
- Nancy said that if more time is needed then of course more time will be taken.
- Robin said that there will be a department meeting between discussions and staff meetings and discussion could take place then.
- Nancy stated that departments can talk to one another before any decision making. Discussion should include whether you want to go ahead with planning a double block schedule. Having this schedule for a few weeks in the middle of the year is something we can live with now. Things could change and it may not be something we can do all year. We would have to block out all year and see how it would look. First, do we want to continue planning a double block schedule? Much work will need to be done to make sure it is what we want. We do not have time to commit to planning this if we really do not want a double block schedule to begin with. Then if we do get a schedule we want it then goes to a union vote. It takes a 2/3 vote from staff, it goes to the union vote.
- Nancy then said that all information will be available on line.
- Ann said that her daughter is more relaxed than ever before.
- Bernadette feels that how teachers respond to the schedule depends on how students react.
- Azita said that in a couple of her classes it's overwhelming to obtain so much information at one time and have to go home and digest.
- Katie asked if having so many Mondays off during the pilot affected Azita's opinion.
- Azita said she wasn't sure.

- Robin said that she was worried at first but the pilot schedule has been really effective. She asked if feedback will be by grade level.
- David S. said that they hope to be able to show the information by grade level.

Meeting adjourned @ 4:30 p.m.