

**Montgomery Site {DRAFT} Council Minutes
October 8, 2009**

Meeting starts: 7:15 p.m.

Attendance/Introductions: Amanda Walsh, Shelly Wickwire, Elizabeth Moon, Cheri Burau, Ruthi Bowers, Ryan Bezerra, Bob Bain, Christian Renaudin, Mark Stephens, Erin Perry

Alternate: Adrienne Mededith, Sarah Neville

I Welcome / call

II. Agenda:

Amanda Walsh suggested adding a report on UA and High Achiever Math contest.

III Approval of Minutes

A Site Council

Emergency meeting of September 23rd

Motion: approve the minutes

Approved 9-0

Sept 10 regular council minutes will be approved during the next meeting

B Advisory committees:

- PTA minutes (Monday night meeting) - 9 vendors are attending the upcoming Gift Mart – talked about music program – difficult time managing the music program in terms of staff and teacher preference – PTA is interested in performing arts – some would like some changes – maybe just a communication issue – request funds for books at 2-3rd grade and for music program - \$10,000 for innisbrook (net \$5K)
- ELAC – big group of Spanish, Slavic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, etc. Questions about the tests 325 (reclassified English proficient) then IFEP or RFEP (dropped from EL after 3 years) – Shelly will create written communication with all concerned parents
- GATE – district level – talked that 3rd grade testing is too late – some money might be available for the Bridge Foundation (after day program with mentor) - see attached minutes
- SPAC – no report
- DAC – no report
- Climate: discussed report on migrant kids and challenges they face, and other issues – see attached minutes.
- Spanish immersion – good turnaround – presentation about the program and committee – Art night – international dance night Feb 29th – Foreign Language acquisition program (book purchase, projectors, etc.)

IV Public Comments: None.

V Unfinished business

A. Site Council nomination: approval of the 2 alternate

B. Debriefing of community meeting:

- Report from Elizabeth Moon: Some suggestions were to simply focus on individual students and de-emphasize NCLB issue since MME will be considerably challenged in achieving the results as mandated currently – we just need to document what is being done at the student level
- Christian Renaudin and Ryan Bezerra take-aways were:
 - a. The District did not give a concrete answer in terms of action and did not address the questions about what program improvements really means: the message was that PTA will have to provide the needed support and it is up to the school to address the challenge with SSC.
 - b. There was no recognition about the multiple factors working against MME

- c. Superintendent dismissive of the parents' concerns and the needs to know or clarification of the district action plan – at best he provided a political answer with unclear commitment of resources.
- o Two strategies were suggested by Christian Renaudin
 - a. Internal focus on achievement gap – use Dr. Bryant data to foster what works and on what needs the most support → Shelly suggested that a specific SSC member could passively attend the MME EL pilot steering committee – Second Tuesday of the month
 - i. This needs to be regular report and this tem needs to be added to continuing old business
 - b. External focus on community outreach – parents of SSC will be in charge – need to write a letter to school board members
 - i. **Motion:** to create an external Task Force to engage school board members: all SSC parents to be included in this committee
 - 1. Shelly abstaining
 - 2. All others in favor: 8-0
- o Followed then a discussion on what teachers' expectations: both Christian Renaudin and Amanda Walsh clarify that they hope that teachers participate more actively and share their views. Ruth Bowers asked what parents think need to be fixed. Christian / Amanda to reply that maybe additional resources to help support challenging class or after class activities.

VI New Business

A. Budget update

A new .5 point teacher to be added in math (other 50% with Birch Lane) – This math teacher will work with other teachers – does not rule out math academy – Measure Q money After school – district picking up the \$8,250 X 3 + targeted language art skills (\$990 per session x 10) = \$34,650 – used to be paid by the state UC Davis – pays \$111,000 for 12 tutors Bridge

District uses stabilization state funds to make up to 20% retention on title 1 money imposed by Federal regulation on PI schools (to pay for transportation of children who may change school if parents desire to do so), so money will still flow to MME. The district is making some special effort for this, until the 20% money can become available again assuming no parents will decide to move their children.

B. Review services and adjust intervention positions

Christian Renaudin asked about the source of funding, how it can be used, and how the hourly rates are determined. Shelly clarified that rates are defined by the Teacher Association and new or existing teachers can be solicited for intervention positions. Amanda confirmed that 50% math specialist would focus on 5-6 graders.

C. Analyze School site plan

Academic Program Survey – PI triggered – more in depth analysis is needed – SSC members need time to review Shelly stated that 1-2 members need to get involved to review Questions were asked to clarify the role of SSC members – Shelly indicated that SSC members need to get involved to help drive the next site plan.

D. Targeted Assistance Group (4 to 8 pm)

Kate / Adrienne will go the October meeting (Oct 21st)

Meeting Adjournment:

Elizabeth motioned to adjourn. All in favor to adjourn

Meeting adjourned 9:32 pm

ADDENDUM

September 29, 2009

-Research shows we are testing too late by third grade. Should be in the first or second, especially to target students who weren't already exposed to school with the gap developing between potential and performance.

-May target preschoolers in town to get underprivileged and previously overlooked children.

-Doesn't meet GATE will start before fourth grade with the self-contained program, but students would be targeted and identified earlier, so that more specialized instruction would be given to them.

-When Valley Oak closed, the lowest economically disadvantaged kids did not continue to follow the GATE track. One of the main reasons was probably transportation issues.

-Birch Lane received 27 of these students and MME 29 according to Deanne Quinn's numbers.

-They are not currently making the gains that other students who remained in the program are making.

-The idea was thrown around that perhaps in the future they should look at Birch or MME as another potential feeder school for the GATE self-contained program.

-Teachers, parents, and District administrators are looking at what to do with the funds that had been earmarked previously for the now closed Teen Center at 3rd, and B Streets. These funds would be spread over all grade levels K-12.

-It is open-ended as to what this program will actually look like. The goal is to close the achievement gap. It may start as early as January, and be revised as they go along.

-The idea was tossed around that Bridge is suffering from lack of funding, and this would be a type of program that might benefit from a distribution of funds by this TAG committee. People have to "suggest" and "lobby" for it, though.

-Future Problem Solving was discussed. This is a critical thinking program involving world issues that are being projected for the future-such as 2040. Students lead by a faculty moderator compete in teams to identify challenges and solutions to political, social, economic, etc. problems that arise. Marla Cook has participated in the past and successfully brought teams all the way to nationals.

-Finally, the future budget crisis next year was discussed. They anticipate a 15% cut in every district program, except the ones protected specifically in the last passed measures. This would amount to a \$3.5 million deficit possibly next year.

Sorry you missed it!

Mary

School Climate October 8, 2009
6:00 pm – By Christian Renaudin

- Public comment: migrant worker students testimonial – very positive experience at MME despite their sadness of being migrant – would like to stay at MME if they could. Talked about the “school within school concept to help for curriculum continuity” without losing the integration value.
- Migrant kids tend to stay within their group, and do not mix with other students.
- Site compost = recycle – opportunity for reps of different schools to get together to discuss recycle and compost. Few highlights: 1. Scare crow building (fund raiser with local business) to finance the garden; needs some shade for the compost tumbler
- Emergency binders – emergency plan & fire drills (firemen do not want to notify the teachers)
- Student honor society (\$125 to join for the school charter) – kids get certificates – subjectively assessed – would increase coolness if doing good at school
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- Berkeley organization (River of words) – art work and watershed – could be done after school – winners at all grades
- Yard rules: decided by teachers, parents and principal
- Jump rope for heart – Jumpathon in January