

CTA-Liberty Site Council (SIC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 3:05pm-4:00pm –Library

In attendance:

Staff/teachers: Dr. Bader, Karen Miller, Nona Scott, Tracye Watson, and Cindy O'Dell.

Parents: Melissa Read, Michelle Estrada, Shauna Moore, Melissa Ravalli, Eileen Hedelius, Divya Marwaha, Tara Pettengill, Mark Dewey.

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm.

Review of Idea-sharing/Brain-storming: "Effective schools have..."

1) Updates from recent events:

DLI Parent Meeting (11/10): About 36 families in attendance. 2nd meeting scheduled for 12/15. If not all families are able to make this time slot; Dr. Bader may hold a day meeting or individual family meetings. Plan to have another meeting in February and continue meeting 1x/semester.

Cyber Awareness (11/12): 6 families were in attendance. Many think this may be a topic that we could reach more families through a link in the Liberty Ledger or using a link to a video through an email blast.

Dr. Bader reported that open enrollment would begin on January 11, 2016. The staff has decided that DLI will continue to be offered starting on 1st grade (current K students) and continue adding new grade level-2nd grade (current 1st grade students) for 2016-17. New K students will all receive World Language Spanish 15 min /day and will then have an option for DLI starting in 1st grade.

Michelle Estrada will be starting a STEM Spanish club to be offered 1x/wk. for 1 hour. This will be offered through a grant (90% sure this is a done deal). Several schools will offer to allow for collaboration. Michelle can take 6 students and if additional parents volunteer she will be able to offer to more families.

2) CUSD Parent Survey – questions due: Th 12/10.

3) Parent Survey (Spring 2015) follow-up: quantity of homework: suggestions/solutions.

Dr. Bader shared our current focus: Community of parents and teachers, Open communication, Incentive to families toward shared commitment for student success.

The CTA Handbook was reviewed in regards to homework assignments that every parent agrees to and signs each year.

Both views are valid: Homework has important value to emphasize classroom learning; too much homework can be harmful if overwhelming or discouraging.

Discussion was brought up re: nightly vs. weekly homework. Teacher consensus was nightly homework works best to meet CTA standards and expectations.

Parents would love to see the parent Spalding class be re-instated. It helped parents get a leg up and really offer their students help with basics of our entire language arts program.

Most parents agreed to like the “jump start” that some teachers offer. It allows student to get excited about their homework and offers momentum as they get home each evening.

Another idea that surfaced was the possibility of a handbook to offer parents different strategies to assist students that are struggling with the amount of homework or have trouble staying focused.

CTA-Liberty ranks #9 in AZ for AZ Merit scores – desire to maintain this excellence, and high standards within reasonable workload expectations.

4) Retention of 6th and 5th grade students: concerns, causes, survey options.

Each year, approx. 25% of students leave after 5th grade to attend other schools for 6th grade: mainly ACP-Oakland. Also, several other grade-levels had seen student attrition for other schools, like Great Hearts, BASIS.

Dr. Bader plans to develop survey questions for parents of former student that chose to leave 6th grade:(What drew you to ACP-O, What was missing from CTA?)

As well as survey parents of current 4th & 5th graders:(What would keep you at CTA?)

And even parents of current 6th graders:(What kept you at CTA?)

5) Spirit Week ideas; also Socials/Afterschool events.

Melissa Ravelli suggested patriotic-themed options, like Veteran’s Day breakfast. Other suggestions from the group included: service projects, Feed My Starving Children, sending care packages, after-school dances. Involve students in planning for ownership. Next meeting: create plan for spirit ideas for spring semester.

6) Emergency Response Procedures:

Current plans exist in binder in front office. Discussion included: Faith Church of the Valley is not large enough for 600+ students, need to determine a different off-site location for evacuation: (Tibshraney Park, Humphrey School, Desert Baptist Church, etc.). Next meeting: confirm plans for meeting locations and procedures, also parent procedures for pick-up.

7) Dress code: Outerwear (sweatshirts & jackets – if worn indoors: should be solid red, white, or navy) – Concern in upper grades: difficult to find outerwear in styles that don’t have designs/patterns/bling.

There was a request for teachers to provide gentle reminders to students, if needed. Request for parents to have children wear outerwear that is in compliance, if worn indoors.

8) CEF Car Raffle (March 4, 2016); CSB Chandler School Boosters 5K Run/1 mi walk (January 24, 2016) – will also be discussed at PTO meeting on Wed. Dec. 9.

CSB provides CPAs, Attorneys, Tax Completion, and Insurance. CSB currently collects 1.2% of all PTO fundraising. This fun-run fundraiser would provide CSB with funding for their operating budget.

Any Walk-In Requests:

Carpool Directory (Michelle Estrada): Planning Phase now; should be available to parents by May 2016, to be used for 2016-2017 school year.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm. Future Meetings (Tuesdays at 3:05pm): 1/12; 2/16; 4/12; 5/10.