

Henry Elementary School Site Council Minutes August 31, 2010

Meeting Called to Order at 4:00PM

Members Present: Jon Ben-Asher, Christy Canovas, B.J. Cordova, Diane Holzman, Sandy Coons, Mark Ordaz, Lori Galbraith, Rebecca Ayers, Matthew Beem

Members Absent: Brianna Woolen, James Clark

Call to Audience Present: Vicki Sheley, Jim Sheley, Jineane Sheley, Gary Fowler

Minutes: Minutes from August 3, 2010 were approved as corrected.

Introduction made of new Site Council Members. Christy Canovas and Jon Ben-Asher reviewed with the members of Council the roles of a Site Council. Site Councils follow the Roberts Rule and Order, need quorum to hold a meeting. Meetings usually run for 1 – 1 ½ hours depending on agenda at hand. Review of what Call to the Audience means. Members of the Council will all receive binders which include copy of current bylaws, rules to practice ie: Public Notice of meeting needs to be posted 24 hours before a scheduled meeting. Christy Canovas will check into the possibility of training for members to attend or possibly be given at an upcoming meeting.

Call to the Audience:

Vicki Sheley addressed the Council. She wanted to thank the Council for a job well done in the handling of the Wrightstown/Henry Merger. She is concerned in the way the DIT has been handled at Henry. She feels as though the parents deserved more communication from the District instead of leaving on the Principal's shoulders. Ms. Sheley said the District could come out to discuss the merger but can't come out to discuss the DIT issue. Is this how things will be handled in the future too? A second concern is why there is only one teacher present at the Site Council Meeting. Third Concern is in regards to the Henry Website. Ms. Sheley indicated how important it is to keep this site updated for parents to go to as a reference point with the happenings of Henry on an ongoing basis. Last concern was regarding funding of Art Classes.

Jim Sheley addressed the council second. Mr. Sheley is also very upset with the handling of the DIT at Henry. He said the community of the Wrightstown made the ultimate sacrifice of closing their school and were told that by voluntarily merging they were to be "left alone" for the first year. Mr. Sheley wanted to let the Council know that parents are upset about the DIT. Mr. Sheley also indicated that Henry had technically already lost a teacher over the summer when a teacher decided to retire. The issue of the Portable was another concern of Mr. Sheley's. He indicated that we were promised a portable and now we are not even on the list, "might not even get one at all."

The Site Council response to the Call to the Audience was that of appreciation for their concerns. Mr. Ben-Asher addressed the Audience with the following in regard to the DIT. Mr. Ben-Asher said that he found out about the possibility of losing a teacher on August 24, 2010 from his supervisor, Ms. Kendra Bell. He brought it to the attention of the staff during the staff development meeting on August 25, 2010. At that time, it was not intended for public notice, it was still hopeful that this DIT would not happen. There was discussion amongst staff to see if this were to happen would someone volunteer to be the DIT from Henry. On Friday, August 27, 2010 it was discovered that this was going to be a definite decision for Henry and since no one volunteered to leave, the teacher with the least seniority would become the DIT, in our case it was Brianna Woolen. On Friday, Ms. Bell came to Henry to discuss this matter with the Staff. Mr. Ben-Asher reiterated that this decision was made by the Elementary Leadership team within the District. Mr. Ben-Asher shared how upsetting

this was and how it is already a sensitive time for the Henry Community. He asked if Maggie Shaffer would come speak to the Community, but that request was declined because they felt it was already handled with Ms. Bell speaking to the staff and Mr. Ben-Asher would be available to answer parent's questions. With the Merger, Henry was never promised that they would be free from this action, only promised that we would be looked at last. There are other elementary schools that have classrooms with 35-40 students with long term substitutes filling in these classrooms. The decision was made that Ms. Panunzio's first grade class with only 14 students would be divided amongst the other two first grade classes and Ms. Panunzio would take over Miss Woolen's kindergarten class effective Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Mr. Ben-Asher clarified on the statement regarding Henry already losing a teacher over the summer. Wrightstown had 5 teachers, Henry 11, an additional 2 teachers returned from a leave of absence, giving us 18 teachers with only 15 openings. Two teachers were transferred to the Transfer Pool and one teacher retired, leaving us with 15 staffed positions. After the DIT this week, we are left with 14 staffed positions.

The reason why only one teacher representative was present at the Site Council meeting today is because Miss Woolen was representing one of the seats which will be filled by the appropriate measures. The other teacher representative, Mr. Clark was unable to attend due to another commitment.

Art – Mr. Ben-Asher booked an Art Workshop for the staff to attend. Teacher feedback is that they appreciate the program we have, but would also like to have basic art concepts, study of Great Artists, etc. Would like to add to future agenda for staff to come to Council and give input of what teacher's would like. The staffing of the Art position will be a Council decision.

Christy Carnovas addressed the issue of the website and said she would be checking into getting the site updated.

Regarding the portable situation, Mr. Ben-Asher indicated that we have not lost any portables – Possibility of empty room to become multi-purpose room for Art, Gate, English Language development. There is no threat to reduce existing rooms.

Good and Big things are happening because of the Merger, doesn't necessarily mean that Henry is immune. We have had a tough bump in the road but within needs of a school district we are a family among TUSD. Mr. Ben-Asher is open to discussing items with anyone who has concerns.

Principals Report:

Henry's energy is positive, we are moving in the right direction. Most requested Merger items have been fulfilled. We don't have the additional portable or outside bathroom, but we haven't been told no either.

The Sounds System from Wrightstown has been added, playground upgraded, media center, parking lot renovation will be happening. The primary court has been resurfaced and we were able to have a lot of the games repainted. The dirt in the playground areas are being turned over and will be complete within the next few days.

Parking Lot: This improvement almost wasn't going to happen, but with positive pushing it has been approved and construction will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. The project should take approximately 60 business days to complete. When complete we will have an additional 15 parking spaces, Bus Bay along Igo, a longer pick up/drop off area and a crosswalk added on the north end of the property.

Unfortunately the added sidewalk was not part of the project, however B.J. Codova mentioned that maybe we could apply for ADOT's Safe Routes to Schools Grant. Mr. Ben-Asher is concerned about the safety of our students and is very appreciative of the staff and volunteers working to keep everyone safe.

Budget Reduction: Due to the passing of Prop 100 the 10% budget reduction has been reduced to 7%, resulting in an additional .34 points given back to Henry (approximately \$18-19,000). Mr. Ben-Asher will be presenting this to the staff on September 1, 2010 looking for their recommendations on how to allocate this additional money.

Music Teacher: Ms. Emily Evans has been hired and comes to us with instrumental and vocal training. She will start on September 27, 2010.

Library: Mr. Pat Vreeland will not be coming to Henry as a Library Clerk as originally planned. Ms. Laurel Thorpe will start next week and will be working on Tuesday's and Thursday's. Ms. Hendrickson and Ms. Panunzio are coordinating Library volunteers as well.

Computers: Steven Gibb has formed a Non-Profit organization which obtains recycled computers to refurbish and give back to schools. There is a possibility that Henry might be able to get computers thru this Non-Profit organization.

Banwidth upgrade: Henry is on the top of the list to receive this upgrade. There are some legal issues being worked thru and once they are resolved we will see this enhancement.

Title 1 Funding: Henry has received a \$43,000 allocation from these funds. Mr. Ben-Asher would like to put together a parent and staff group to meet and discuss how these monies should be allocated. Ideas would be to place 1/2 to 2/3 of budget towards a reading tutor. Would also like to add Success Maker software to all classroom computers. In addition would like to increase the counselor to five days per week.

Discussion Items:

By-Laws Committee – Mr. Ben-Asher, Diane Holzman, Christy Canovas and Matt Beem have agreed to serve on this committee. They will meet on September 7, 2010 at 4:15PM in the conference room to discuss revising the By-Laws of the Council. Community parents are also invited to attend.

Study/Action Items: None

Appoint Recorder and Facilitator: Christy Canovas recommended along with Mr. Ben-Asher's approval to postpone appointment until next meeting.

Set Calendar and Next Agenda: It was approved to set calendar at next Site Council meeting. The next Site Council meeting will be on September 14, 2010 at 4:00PM in the Library.

Meeting adjourned at 5:34PM

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Emrich-Galbraith

Site Council Parent