

Wrightstown-Henry Elementary School Site Council

Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 13, 2010

Attendance:

Members Present/Classification

Jonathan Ben-Asher, Principal

Brianna Woolen, Certified

Kim Bachenheimer, Certified

Diane Holzman, Certified

Christy Canovas, ESP

Arlene Stamp, ESP

Lorrie Baker, ESP

Michelle Ward, Parent

Gary Fowler, Parent

Kim MacAllister, Parent

B.J. Cordova, Community Member

Absent:

(none)

Wrightstown:

Jon Ben-Asher, Principal

James Clark, Teacher/Facilitator

Arlene Doran, Teacher/Counselor

Nicole Roqueta, Teacher

Sandy Coons, Classified Support

Rebecca Ayers, Parent

Larry Berry, Parent/PTA President

Absent: Lynne Hooge, Melissa Goularte, Jessica Markley

1. Meeting called to order by Facilitator, Christy Canovas, at 4:00 p.m.
2. Minutes were approved by consensus with a minor change that teaching staff is 14.95 for 10% cut, and music .15 only is under 6 & 8% reductions, not 10%. Under 6 and 8% cuts, teaching staff is full 15 points.
3. Call to the Audience:
 - a. Vicki Sheley: concerned about what will happen next year, also passed around a letter that was sent around Soleng Tom area, soliciting funds for supplies for teachers. Henry should be advertising its strengths including great test scores, all day kindergarten etc.
 - b. Eleanor Fowler: has enjoyed working with Pat, retired Wrightstown librarian and also camaraderie between the two sites
4. Reports:
 - a. Sue Heathcote: most of projects have been approved for 10 in 2010, but getting these done before August will be a challenge. Panther signage approved; student dropoff/pickup approved; interactive boards approved; new/relocated playground paused for now. Several schools have portables but may need work, before it would be brought to Henry. New media center or modular and 2 additional classrooms, yes – (do we want replacements for portables, and where do we want it, what will uses be?) – new dropoff options may relate to new building locations. All portables will need to be within 150 feet of fire truck. Sustainability: didn't get approval for sustainability items because it wasn't a full list as of yet; TEP has solar panel program, they're looking for schools, want to put the word in with Tina Cook at TUSD energy manager (committee members interested from Henry and Wrightstown) to work with TEP on this. Water harvesting, tanks etc. may be problematic due to upkeep, need to have parent or teacher volunteer to take care of this longer term. Also, energy conservation – retrofit – district would need to put money upfront but rebates and changeout make it more cost effective. Introduced Steve Herzog, with Earl Kai Chann Associates architects, as school needs to make decisions so designs can be made – possibly using Ace Asphalt or Sunland on state contract for procurement to speed up construction instead of new bid process. May need to move north playground to accommodate circular dropoff with parking in center. Steele Elementary has this, with limited access. Comment, space is still too limited at Steele. Henry has up to 5 buses currently. Working with Transportation on these issues. Need a recommendation in 2 weeks, will establish a subcommittee to get more input as soon as possible.
 - b. Merger committees: friendship bracelets out of yarn on mixed school day; not just a play day, also some academics. Students will be divided up, have pen pals between schools. Students will come to Wrightstown as normal and will be transported; parents can come to Henry for coffee. Lunches will be at Henry as well, Wrightstown students bring their cards. Buses are approved for going to and from Henry for Wrightstown

students. Still getting a few donations, and have \$20 from Sunflower Market to get fruit; additional \$25 gift card from Albertsons as well. Kudos to all who made April 8th events possible!

5. Principal: Project Able has been targeted for relocation from Henry and one other school to more central areas to TUSD to better serve the communitywide needs in the district. Recent event, 200 people, 100 pizzas! Students, parents & staff mingling, open house worked well and people felt welcomed – also undid some misconceptions about the school facilities being not up to par. Very positive event! Also – before-care program option is being worked on with YMCA (Margie) if 20 families want pre-care, before care beginning at 7am – 8am; preschool, and then after care. Needs to be 5 day commitment, does accept DES, though ease of this is difficult; also have scholarships on first come first served basis. Ott YMCA will also be available for those participating in care program. YMCA care program also includes care on short days and other special circumstances. 15:1 ratio is also better than current 20:1. Also includes field trips to YMCA on Wednesdays. Resource allocation process: approved last time by site council, slightly differently than Henry faculty had submitted. Faculty at both sites agreed that the budget process was complete as submitted by site council but will revisit if needed. A vote doesn't mean everyone is on board but it is a scenario that we can all live with. Comment regarding Ms. Sheley's call to the audience, data is available regarding community surveys, the district has to allocate teachers according to enrollment projection and potentially teachers could be lost if enrollment was not up to expectations but merged sites would be last rather than first. All Day Kindergarten banner will be added, on websites. (Would like media to attend?). Need to have banners at both schools. We have room at all grade levels, but space is limited for open enrollment and those in combined Wrightstown and Henry boundaries. (Gale & others may be going to ½ day – opportunity for Henry/Wrightstown communities to expand enrollment?). These two communities have made a very positive and courageous decision and early enough to make this very positive, as some school closures may be coming in the next years. Still figuring out future middle/high school attendance boundaries.
6. Discussion Items:
 - a. Music/fine arts teacher for next yearMr. Ben-Asher felt that it would be desirable to put aside the same amount of tax credit money at the 10% reduction, as we would spend at the 8% and 6% budget reductions (0.15-\$8,357 as noted in the budget sheets). Christy Canovas talked about looking into teachers setting aside a certain amount of tax credit money from their designated funds so that the undesignated tax credit money could be saved for the future. The council thought it would be good to discuss this option with the staff before moving forward. If agreed upon, we would be looking at hiring one teacher to teach all grades (who choose to participate). We would also need to advertise quickly to ensure we find a teacher for the music program as soon as possible. Mr. Fowler expressed a concern about our P.E. program for next year. Mr. Ben-Asher expressed that both current teachers have expressed interest in the position and that the fairest thing to do may be to put the position up for a hiring process. There was a suggestion made that perhaps the two teachers could share the position, we will look into this.
7. Study/action items:

Mr. Berry made a motion to approve using a 0.15 of tax credit money for fine arts (music) use at the 10% budget reduction level. Mr. Clark 2nd the motion and was unanimously approved.

8. Executive session:

a. Staff positions

The topic was addressed that the council does not have the right to discuss any staff member's position or performance.

As far as the merger and the combining of two classified positions, the district states that the most senior classified employee takes precedent.

Although, a staff member submitted a very well thought out plan for solving budget problems, it was expressed that the staff as a whole (made clear by direct contact) did not want to re-vise the budget at this time.

A council member wanted to remind the staff to request for supplies since money has already been allocated by the PTA. Strategies will be discussed for making sure that these monies are spent for supplies this school year. Otherwise, we need to make it available for other possibilities for this school year.

9. Next meeting/agenda: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 – 4:30 at Wrightstown

Future agenda items were discussed .

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM