

Bird Rock Elementary School Governance Team Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2018

GT members in attendance:

Laura Gunn, BRE Foundation Representative
Alex Yerbury, BRE Foundation Representative
Rachael Cardenas, Parent Representative
Kristi Nelson, TK-1 Teacher Representative
Peggy Wilkinson, 2/3 Teacher Representative
Ginny Gallagher LaRowe, 5th grade Representative
Tara Barber, Chairperson, SDEA Representative
Ryan Weiss, Teacher at Large
Andi Frost and Judy Fogel, Interim Principals

Guests:

Ami Doshi
Lori Shearer
Kim Williams

Call to order- Tara Barber called meeting to order, at 3:10pm

1. Approval of minutes

- a) April SGT meeting minutes were reviewed.
Change Kate Williams to Kim Williams
Minutes approved/Passed

2. GATE REPORT- Kim Williams

- a) There's supposed to be a binder available to all teachers and parents with everything from accountability plan, policies, all info about GATE. The binder lives in the office and is available for anyone to see. The "best practices" information is in the binder.

Parents usually expect GATE to follow a whole separate curriculum. Here, we are "model B" where the GATE population is evenly disbursed among all 3-5 classrooms. Critical Literacy and critical math have sort of taken the place of Socratic seminar-type classes. Most teachers know that there are a number of ways to get at the differentiated levels among students - questioning, reports, extra work, writing their own problems, reading more advanced books. etc.

We can revisit the information in the binder, but Kim suggests concerned parents review what's in there as a first step. If you still have questions, you can email her at ktatman@sandi.net.

Judy Fogel added that the curriculum is what it is, the approach will vary according to each student's ability. We are in compliance and adhering to best practices relating to GATE instruction.

Andi Frost added that we will schedule the Spring GATE meeting to share general information about GATE processes and practice. She will communicate with Marlo about schedule.

3. BYLAWS- Laura Gunn

- a) Bylaw draft is completed. Bylaws subcommittee agreed that draft can be sent out to the SGT at large. The document should be sent as a PDF.

4. SCIENCE and ENRICHMENT UPDATE - Andi Frost

- a) As Rodger Ashworth will be leaving, we have had to re-think how science / STEAM instruction will happen at BRE next year. An alternative science plan has been floated by the teachers to the BRF and was met with general approval. The teachers have asked for 3-6 days worth of professional development in science. Mrs. LaRowe asked if BRF was going to approve that money. Alex Yerbury said that the teachers would need to provide a written proposal. The last BRF Executive Board meeting will be June 5 and the Foundation meeting will be June 7. AY communicated that there were some questions about how the PD would be facilitated - the BRF would need something more specific about how the money would be spent rather than just handing over the money. BRF needs more info about the PD vendors, etc. ahead of time. (BRF usually funds enrichment, can the teachers link the PD to enrichment the kids will get?).
- b) As for Arts, the teachers have all chosen their preferred type of art for next year. Andi Frost is in talks with the district about how best to fund the arts providers.

5. PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

- a) We don't yet have a complete update about enrollment numbers. Last we checked, the number we're looking at seemed not to come up to the number we'd need for the full 18 teachers we're currently slated to receive. Marcelino from enrollment options now says we might not have 29 Choice students after all. Apparently some Choice applicants haven't yet gotten the word about whether they'd been accepted.
- b) Jen Gamez asked Andi to share at SGT that there's a Library Committee that's interested in getting as much information as possible from teachers about what they'd want to see out of a library. Lori Shearer shared a bit more about the library committee and its goals. Our library is underutilized and our students arrive at Muirlands not knowing how to use the Dewey Decimal system.

Tara moved to put library committee update on the agenda for next SGT next meeting. Seconded by Gunn, motion carried.

- c) Judy Fogel brought up (Ami Doshi's) concern (agenda item) regarding religious holidays.**
1. Items that come up during public comment shouldn't be voted on at that meeting. Instead, they should be added to the agenda for the next meeting so that interested parties can see the item there, then attend and vote.
 2. SGT can't make mandates that are binding on the BRF. They're separate.
 3. The Calendar to which we were referring is the BRE master calendar. (Visual aid - large desk blotter with handwritten entries). NO religious holidays are written onto our calendar, but they're pre-printed on there and of course we need to be good people and good stewards of the calendar and not set things that are important on days that are religious holidays. To be inclusive, JF suggests we amend our motion to delete mention of the BRF and to alter the wording so that it says something like "it will be the policy of BRE that we will avoid placing on our master calendar special activities (e.g. movie nights, classroom parties) or significant school activities (e.g. field trips/testing/open house) on recognized religious holidays or other significant cultural observations that would require some students to miss that activity or event." Goal is to be "good neighbors."

GLR moved to amend prior motion as stated above, AF seconded, motion carried.

6. BRF REPORT - Alex Yerbury

Nominations are coming in for our Executive Board, some positions remain unfilled.

Movie night was a success

AY explained the process by which BRF Executive Board positions are elected. Teachers had some questions about how the BRF process worked.

7. PARENT-AT-LARGE REPORT - Rachel Cardenas

- a) Regarding the process of getting the next parent representative for SGT voted in: AF asked whether the BRF / SGT representative needs to be voted in by both SGT and the BRF. JF said that person BRF wants as their SGT rep needs to be on the parent ballot for the parent representatives. Currently the only person on the ballot is Lori Shearer.
JF - parent ballot will be announced this week.
There WILL be a June meeting. It will be SHORT. June 11th at 3:15pm.

Meeting adjourned 4:55

Minutes taken by Laurie Gunn