

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
December 18, 2017
5:30-6:30 pm
Riley Library

In attendance: Ana Evangelista Espinosa, Josefina Magena, Maria Mendoza, Christi Paulson, Rukundo Birindwa, Fatna Barchm, Calvin Smothers, Sonia Gonzalez, America Gomez, Jim Martin, Ronald Urbin.

Excused: Chris Mitchener, Chair.

The meeting started at 5:30pm.

Everyone was welcomed. Principal Martin explained that Mr. Mitchener, our SCC Chair, could not make it to the meeting. He sent his apologies.

The first item of business was to discuss School Community Council mid-year accomplishments. This is a required process for the SCC. The document of our mid-year accomplishments will need to be published annually. Here is what the SCC said about our accomplishments this year: families are feeling comfortable at Riley; attendance at SCC has improved; we are doing fundraisers including a recipe book and a movie night; we have sponsored a charitable fundraiser for the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas; we have advocated for changes in some of the traffic rules surrounding Riley; we have looked at and discussed student data, including how to improve the data moving forward; we have discussed student incentives and how to keep students engaged in positive behaviors; we have gotten a PTO going.

Fundraiser update—we are collecting recipes for the recipe book. Please complete a recipe form and send it back to school. The recipe card template will be sent out to the entire school community again in January. It was sent with gold folders in December. We will also be having a movie night. The movie that was selected by the SCC is *Wizard of Oz*. Maria Mendoza will be making a flier to go out when we return in January. The movie night will be held January 25th at 5:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help the day before and an hour before the event begins. Please contact Maria Mendoza at Riley (801-974-8310) to help with the movie night. All proceeds from the movie night will go to student incentives and field trips.

Charitable fundraiser update—we have been collecting money for an education foundation in Texas. The foundation represents a community that was hard hit by Hurricane Harvey last summer. The students have been bringing pennies and other coins and putting them in containers in the rotunda. There will be a grade level winner announced when we return from break.

Family engagement opportunities—Principal Martin asked those in attendance what they thought of some of our recent family engagement opportunities like breakfast Bunch and family reading buddies. They liked both. Both events were accommodating to different sets of parents—some could make it in the morning and not in the afternoon; others could make it in the afternoon but not in the morning. It seems like doing a combination of these in the future would be good. SCC members expressed an interest in seeing more evening opportunities such as dance and music performances. Principal Martin shared that we recently did a Native American heritage night. It is the goal to have several more heritage nights with dancing, food, and art. A culminating art night at the Unity Center will feature all the heritage night art. SCC members also mentioned how much they like the idea of home visits. One parent in attendance remarked on how much her family enjoyed having teachers visit their home. The rest of those in attendance expressed an interest in having their own home visit. They said that home visits allow teachers to know cultures that might be different from theirs. They also shared that it is nice to get to know the teachers as people. Other family engagement ideas that were mentioned including a Mexican dance with parents and teachers and a talent show with both students and teachers involved.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Report—Maria Mendoza passed around a paper asking that members nominate parents for PTO positions. The purpose of PTO will be to help teachers with whatever they need help with. In helping teachers, we will also be helping children.

Schedule next year—Principal Martin shared that the faculty is considering moving to a short-day Friday schedule next school year. SCC members were asked for their input. The majority of those in attendance expressed concern over such a schedule. Some of the feedback included:

- why would we go to a short day Friday when our students are struggling and need more instructional time?
- The short-day Friday would especially inconvenience working parents who would have to find supervision for Friday afternoons.
- Short Fridays become throwaway days rather than actual learning days.
- The SCC perceives that a 5-day equal schedule improves student behavior.

Principal Martin informed the SCC that we currently have 90 minutes of teacher planning on Fridays right now. Students attend two back-to-back rotations to equal 90 minutes of release time for teachers to plan. This 90-minutes is hard on students and the faculty thought it might work better to send them home in the afternoon so teachers can plan. Principal Martin assured the SCC that there will be more discussion about this topic in 2018, prior to any final decisions being made.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm. The next SCC meeting will be on Monday, January 29th at 5:30 pm in the Riley Library.

Minutes by Jim Martin.