

Site Council Meeting Minutes  
2/29/2024

Minutes submitted by Aurelia Azaremi

Attendees: Elizabeth Leftik, Donna Grim, Jonathan Templeton, Brenda Dvorak, Gina Sans, Aurelia Azarmi, Lisa Rubin, Catherine Lu, Mary Alex Roy

Absent: Isabel Chan, Julie Defino, Jenny Oh, Chris Buchanan, Adam Glimme, Mariah Brown

Notes:

- January minutes approved by Elizabeth L. seconded by Jonathan T.
- Donna reviews school goals for the coming year:
  - 1st Goal: **Go back to reading**, in particular follow 2nd grade. This will be supported by using the evaluation for each grade from December to December and see how the reading level increase. By next year at this time, all grades will be using the Dibbles measure.
  - 2nd Goal: The **chronic absenteeism** rate is 17.5%. It corresponds to the number of students who have more than 10 days off per year (excused and unexcused). Last year, absenteeism caused the school to lose \$112K. The goal for next year is to go down to 7% or lower.
    - We will use communication, monthly report and family contacts to achieve that goal.
    - Independent contract needs to be returned the day of return in order to be recognized by the district.
    - Brenda D. proposed to create a visual very easy to understand the impact of absenteeism.
    - Families also needs to understand the impact of not returning the independent contract and other absenteeism.
  - These goals are approved by Site Council
- Site Council representatives need to be voted in before May (president, secretary, ...), and should be an equal number of parents and school representatives.
- Discussion around Art
  - School get allocation from district but the rules can change over time
  - Lisa presents the studies about Art done in other schools
  - Donna's idea is to hire a certified art assistant
  - The cost is \$45k per year (2 days a week) for certified staff
  - Teachers thoughts (Mary and Jonathan):
    - Art for lower grade and upper don't have the same goals but the same person can develop the curriculum adapted to each grade
    - Teachers like the idea to have an assistant to do art with them in class
    - Teachers also propose performing arts which can bring in movement and help develop other skills
  - Donna suggested that VAPA money may be temporary, so it is important to plan for continuity. Donna needs to forecast the cost over years for this purpose.
  - Catherine L. talked about the Art program at Athenian, and maybe a collaboration could be done. A collaboration with Monte Vista students might also be possible.
  - Donna will create a committee of teachers to decide how to use the VAPA money – 80% personnel and 20% on supplies.
- Assemblies for the year have been planned