

School Site Council Meeting

Minutes

School: Hillcrest K-8 School

Date 4-23-09

Members present: Beverly Rothberg, Mark Donahue, Ken Newberger, Eileen Massey, Darcy Brown-Warlick, Jean Cannon, Joe Skogren, John Garrett, Larry Vollintail

Quorum established (6 members): Yes No

Minutes must address each agenda item. Summarize discussions and note approval.

see attached supplement

(Please add additional pages as needed)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 AM

Next Meeting Date: Final Meeting

Minutes Submitted By: Larry Vollintail

SSC MINUTES – SUPPLEMENT

The following are supplemental Minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting of the School Site Council of Hillcrest Elementary School.

4a. Approval of Minutes. Revised draft Minutes from the March 12, 2009 meeting were circulated and additional revisions made. On motion by Eileen and second by Darcy, the revised Minutes were unanimously approved.

4b. OUSD and Hillcrest Budget Update. Beverly summarized changes in budget planning by OUSD and Hillcrest for the 2009-10 academic year based upon events over the last month. The picture is bleak for both this next year and the following.

4c. School Traffic Safety. Beverly summarized comments presented at a community meeting she recently attended held at St. Theresa School and sponsored by Councilperson Jane Brunner. The purpose of the meeting was to gather community input on traffic safety in the neighborhood in light of the four public and private schools located in the Upper Rockridge area. At the St. Theresa meeting, Barbara Gross, Hillcrest parent and team leader of a group looking into Hillcrest traffic safety, presented the results of a walk audit conducted a few weeks ago by the Safe Routes to Schools program being conducted in Oakland schools in conjunction with the City of Oakland traffic and police departments along with some Hillcrest parents and concerned neighbors. Beverly summarized the results of the walk audit and the list of recommended improvements for the immediate Hillcrest area. [contact Barbara for a copy of the walk audit map and list of recommendations] One of the goals of the Safe Routes to Schools program is to organize “Walking School Buses” where groups of students would gather and walk along safe streets and paths to walk as a group to school while being accompanied by a parent or other responsible person. Beverly said she wants to re-implement next year a controlled morning drop-off program utilizing parents and students of the 4th grade students and above where each grade class would be responsible for covering one month. In addition to making some of the capital and other improvements recommended from the walk audit, some SSC members felt that increased law enforcement by Oakland PD would be a good idea in light of some parents parking in no parking zones or driveways or even in crosswalks, and general speeding and rolling through stop signs in the area. For more information on this topic, contact Barbara Gross.

4d. Hillcrest Enrollment Update. Beverly gave the SSC an update on enrollment at Hillcrest for the 2009-10 school year. 40 prospective kindergartners were accepted at Hillcrest for 2009-10 with 18 diverted to Kaiser Elementary. Parents have until May 8th to formally register their children. By that time, it is possible that not all 40 accepted students will have registered, which could open up spots for some of the diverted students. Even some students who are registered may elect not to attend Hillcrest by the time school opens in the fall. Hence, the final enrollment picture is not totally resolved at this time. As for the Middle School, Beverly reported that 18 of the current middle schoolers will graduate this year and that she understands some eight 5th graders will leave Hillcrest at the end of 5th grade and not continue into the Hillcrest Middle School. These two factors will yield approximately 75 middle schoolers for next year to be handled in three homerooms instead of two as in the past. The science lab will be utilized as a “home room” for one of the middle school classes, though it will still be available for use as a

science lab for other grades. The current science teacher will probably take maternity leave next year and so Beverly is actively looking for a third middle school/science teacher for next year. Beverly expects to need to set up a 2nd-3rd and 3rd-4th grade combination classes. All classes will be large and Beverly will need extra financial support from the PTA for teacher aides. She understands that some of the PTA funded teacher aides would like more hours and so she is considering supplementing play yard support with a peacemakers program that may dovetail with the Mindfulness program being proposed by some parents. In addition, some parents have suggested forming a Middle School study hall separate from AT so that middle schoolers would have a quiet place to do homework away from the commotion of AT. The library/computer room has been suggested as the location to be staffed by a teacher aide funded by the PTA. The PTA needs to do further research to determine if such a program is feasible and sufficiently desired by MS parents and students.

4e. Long Range Planning Committee Update. Darcy further updated the SSC on the activities and intentions of the LRPC. The LRPC still plans to re-run the attendance attrition survey for current Hillcrest families to get a better idea of probable attendance for next year and beyond in grades above K. In response to concerns that this effort would duplicate the survey sent out by Hillcrest staff, Darcy pointed out that the school-generated survey sought information only about parents' intentions for next year, while the LRPC's survey seeks that information along with longer term intentions. Thus, the LRPC's survey results will still be useful for long range planning efforts. Beverly reported that the school-generated survey received a 75% response rate and the data showed very little attrition which is consistent with past trends. The LRPC does not seem inclined to support, either formally or informally, any efforts to seek expansion of the facilities at Hillcrest in light of funding constraints at all governmental and school levels, and the fact that Hillcrest would be very low on any OUSD priority list for additional OUSD capital funds. However, the LRPC recognizes that Hillcrest will still face overcrowding problems that will come to a head in the next year or two.

4f. Mindfulness Program. Sandra Rudel and Jackie Noyes attended the meeting and suggested that Mindfulness teacher aides could be incorporated into the playground supervision efforts to supplement the peacemakers program and to provide additional conflict resolution support. This program could be reviewed and approved by the Positive School Climate subcommittee that the SSC is supposed to set up or act as in its full capacity. The SSC determined to look into incorporating Mindfulness assistance for the play ground in the next school year.

4g. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 AM. This is the last SSC meeting for the 2008-9 school year.