

Minutes of LSRT Meeting of November 13, 2009

P. Eisler presided

Attendees:

T. Nesbitt
N. Atwell
K. Cowden
S. Spooner
D. Nerenberg
N. Atwell

Enrollment:

We have 235 students this year, subject to final word from the enrollment audit.
We were projected to have 228.
We plan to add an additional 3rd grade next year.

Eco Fest:

There was discussion of using the proceeds to support the library, professional development, and programs tied to the new science lab. Once final auction results are in, the LSRT will review the school's budget and programming needs. Recommendations on apportioning the funds will be made to Principal Nerenberg and the PTA.

Posting of LSRT minutes:

One set will be put on the website and one set will be put in a binder and kept in the Hyde main office. Atwell will get the minutes out earlier.

Staffing:

Dana found a teacher to fill the vacant 3rd grade teaching position. Melissa Lewis has accepted Dana's offer, but the paperwork for her employment has not been completed and submitted to DCPS' central office. Mrs. Lewis must also give notice to her current employer. Mrs. Lewis has taught at Hyde before -- she was the long term substitute for Mrs. Roth last year. She knows our curriculum and pedagogy and she did a good job -- she partnered well with Mr. Atwell last year. Ms. Nerenberg is very excited about her coming. Lewis will start after the Thanksgiving holiday. Mrs. Carpenter will substitute until Lewis arrives and Ben Price will remain in the 3rd grade until the transition to Mrs. Lewis is complete. Mrs. Roth and Mr. Atwell will be without an aide until the transition to Mrs. Lewis is complete and Ben leaves the room.

Discussion occurred on whether we should use Eco-Fest money for another aide: Atwell said we do a good job of sharing Ben.

Karen suggested that we wait and see how successful the auction is -- she suggested that we reserve money for field trips. Atwell chimed in that buses are expensive - \$1,000 for a day trip.

Testing

Dana says we are focusing on 3 areas:

Collaboration

Small Group Instruction

Precision of instruction

The focus areas are derived from our teaching and learning framework.

We are part of Achievement Network – a network out of Boston.

It is a non-profit, data driven instruction organization.

They develop interim assessments aligned to MCAS.

We want our kids not to just be good talkers about reading – we want them to push themselves on standardized tests to show what they know.

We normally use DC BAS – it is not a very good tool.

Achievement Network is doing a pilot with interim standardized assessments for DCPS schools.

We are one of 10 DCPS schools in the pilot.

We get coaching from AN representative Justin Jones on how to use the data to inform our instruction.

We took the first assessment about 3 weeks ago.

We will formulate action plans (child and class specific)– to precisely address weaknesses revealed by interim assessment test results.

Hyde must complete the first and last DC BAS only.

Action plans may call for whole group or small group instruction to address issues.

Teachers took the interim assessment tests, to help teachers think how the kids think.

We had one data meeting with the coach – yesterday, Leah, Liz, Jessica and Nerenberg had a meeting with other schools in the pilot.

Next test will be in December.

Tests are meant to take the test in an hour/ not all day affairs.

Dec 8 – Workshop with Kirk Martin – 7-9pm – Workshop on how to manage kids – Teachers and Parents

Six School Council Middle School Night – coming. Dana will push Hyde parents to attend. Tuesday January 26, 2009. At Key Elementary School.