

**Lake Harriet Community School Site Council
January 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes**

Members in attendance:

Maggie Quinlan, Merry Tilleson, Mary Rynchek, Ian Hunter, Barb Boerboon , Heather Legris, Gwen Spurgat, Toni Gerard, Caroline Cochran, Jan Parrish, Tim Showalter-Loch

Guests: Theresa Battle, Ann Smith, Scott Devens, Judy Jasperson

Administrative business - Caroline

- Council voted to approve December 2012 minutes.

Minnesota School of Excellence application progress (Merry)

- Merry explained this is a two-part process and the first part is done. Usually the process takes one year to complete but Merry applied for an extension that will allow us two years.
- Second part of the process is “plan of action” in which two areas were identified to work on:
 - celebration of adult and student learning permeates the daily culture (i.e. celebrating our small accomplishments)
 - knowledge of data – students are taught to use data to make informed decisions in their own work
- Application gets submitted in the spring then it goes before a panel. It is read in the summer. Notification of if we have been endorsed as a Minnesota School of Excellence arrives by the end of the summer.
- Merry will send out the application for feedback/suggestions
- If we get the award, it will be for the whole K-8

GEMS/GISE tournament (Mary):

- Tournament with 21 teams and 50 volunteers went very smoothly. Kids had a great time. Mary thanked Ann Smith and Gwen Spurgat for all their efforts in coordinating the tournament.
- Regional tournament is this Saturday January 19th at Anishinabe

School Fair this past weekend (Mary):

- The fair was a big hit with a good turnout. The Convention Center was a good site. There were lots of parents interested in LHCS, especially parents of incoming kindergarteners. Lora Joshi did a wonderful job on the graphics/display.

Advanced math pathway:

- It has been approved to continue our current program. Grades 4 and 5 will cover 4th, 5th, and 6th grade math. Sixth graders in pathway will continue to have 2 hours of math each day as they do this year.

IB program night:

- Dick Schwartz, IB Diploma Program Coordinator at SW high school has agreed to come talk to middle school parents about the Southwest IB program. Dick will give a PowerPoint presentation on the IB program followed by a Q&A. This will be a 90-minute program. Date TBD but likely a weeknight evening in the early spring from 6:30-8:00.

Paired School option discussion (Theresa Battle, all)

- Theresa ok'd maintaining one yearbook and one newsletter. She also supported one PTA and one Site Council with at least 3 parent members from each school but will need to check with Nan Miller (legal) to review this and all the details.
- One webpage? Theresa will have to check with Communications department.
- No date yet for School Board to vote on the Paired School option
- Theresa will find out how Nokomis and Keewaydin is working
- Theresa and Mary reviewed the reasons to go forward with the Paired School option:
 - Administrative right sizing – need more admin due to: enrollment, quality and time involved in teacher assessment tool. More admin will also allow quality work in returning calls and e-mails from parents.
 - Policy change to formalize what's already going on
 - From a population standpoint – too many students now to remain as one school
 - We already have: Two separate school numbers, two budgets, two SIPs
 - Mary is still the principal of record for both schools. Jan is a Principal on Special Assignment (POSA).
- Gwen and Caroline and parents at the meeting shared concerns regarding the Paired School option:
 - It is important to parents to maintain the feel and benefits of one program and this may be difficult with two principals for two schools
 - Parents value the continuity and of the K-8 school and are concerned that this change will affect this
 - Are there other options to address the lack of administrative support (e.g., an Assistant Principal at lower campus)?
 - It seems like a big change that should be carefully studied before it is implemented. What is the rush to do this right now?
- Next steps on Paired School option:
 - Theresa will ask Nan Miller to respond
 - Theresa will have a meeting with parents and staff of both schools
 - Staff from both campuses need to hear parents' perspective