

Lake Harriet Community School Site Council
October 23, 2012 Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance

Caroline Cochran, Mary Rynchek, Jan Parrish, Maggie Quinlan, Joel Stensrud, Angie Arnold, Tim Showalter-Loch, Toni Gerard, Gwen Spurgat, Lisa Legrand, Heather Legris, Ian Hunter

Administrative business

Council voted to approve September 2012 minutes and School Improvement Plans (SIP) for Lower Campus and Upper Campus

Curriculum night(s)

The final details of Curriculum Night(s) were discussed. Gwen will make the website question form available immediately. The programs will be run as follows:

Middle School Thurs Nov 1st: parents will follow their child's schedule. 10 minutes will be allotted for each period. During specialist time, parents can choose which specialist to visit. Mary will present the advanced math pathway curriculum in the gym from 6:00 – 6:15.

Grades 3-5 Thurs Nov 8th: 4:45-5:15 open window to visit specialists. At 5:15:

Grade 3: meet in the classroom

Grade 4: meet in the gym

Grade 5: meet in the cafeteria

Advanced math pathway discussion with Mary 6:00-6:15 in the gym.

Lower Campus Thurs Nov 15th: Program will run 5:30 – 6:30. For the first 20 min, Jan will talk about the new math differentiation plan in the gym. Specialists will give a brief presentation. Each grade will then break out as a group: K lunch room, 1st media center, 2nd gym. There will be an ESL presentation from 6:30-7:00. An invitation will be sent to ESL families.

SIP

Both SIPs were approved. The only major change from last year was the addition of differentiated math instruction in the lower campus SIP. The SIPs go to the state for approval on 11/23. Once approved, they will be posted.

Lower Campus differentiated math instruction update (Jan):

Jan presented proposed talking points about the new math differentiation program that will start for 1st and 2nd grades in November. The purpose of the program is to model guided reading curriculum and better meet the needs of all students during math. At the beginning of a Number Sense unit, an end-of-unit test will be administered to all students. Test results will be used to find each child's "just right" classroom for that unit. Students may be in a different room during math time for this unit but will return to their regular classroom for the next math unit. The process will be repeated for at least one more 6 to 8 week unit. Jan welcomes feedback about the new process.

UC Advanced Math Pathway (Mary):

Mary explained that the current advanced math pathway at UC will continue for this year but that the district is in the process of putting together an official advanced math pathway that will be uniform from school to school. The district will provide a uniform tool to assess and qualify students. At this point, it is not known just what this new program will look like. The full plan is scheduled to be communicated in March of 2013. Mary will need to plan the budget accordingly.

Facilities Updates (Mary):

A/C for the 2nd floor computer lab will be installed in February.

SIP/Talent Development subcommittee update (Tim, Angie):

This committee is exploring how best to meet the school's needs. As part of this effort, they have developed a short survey for administrative staff to complete regarding the key priorities for the committee. Tim provided paper copies and will send an electronic copy to administrative staff for their input. Jan suggested offering an "options" day at lower campus where kids can pursue a unique interest area and share their interest with others. Tim also discussed making an "FAQ" page about Talent Development. Angie shared a numeracy blog by Christopher Danielson of Normandale Community College:

<http://christopherdanielson.wordpress.com/category/talking-math-with-your-kids/>

STEM subcommittee update (Gwen):

There are 92 kids in the GISE and GEMS program this year. All who applied were accepted. They are split into 22 teams coached by Gino Marchetti and Jeffrey Tousignant as well as parent coaches. The smaller team sizes are working well. Mary is working with Gino Marchetti to potentially move GISE/GEMS to prep time within the school day. There will be classroom space for this next year but not necessarily in future years. This school day offering will be parent driven and will start small with 5th grade only.

Communications subcommittee update (Heather):

The drafted document showing all the information that will be included on the "LHCS Family Guide" website link was shared. Suggestions/edits should be sent to Heather. Approval was given to send the document to Lorna Wilson for translation onto the website.

PTA update (Caroline): The on-line directory is up and running. It may be an option to use this database to include parental skills. The PTA is discussing many new fundraising opportunities including online shopping opportunities accessed through Lake Harriet's website.

The PTA also discussed ensuring that communication to the community regarding the LC addition is clear – that this addition is only allowing right-sizing and that it is NOT making room for additional students. Mary reminded the council that in a few years, space throughout LHCS will be very tight again.