

**Lake Harriet Community School Site Council
December 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

Members in attendance:

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

Guests scheduled to be in attendance: Nan Miller – did not attend the meeting

Administrative business

- Council voted to approve November 2012 minutes.
- LC SIP was signed by Caroline Cochran and Joel Stensrud

Paired Schools discussion (Mary)

- School Board meeting dates still not known – first date will be discussion date, 2nd date will be voting date
- Gwen expressed concern that with two schools, parent involvement could drop off in upper grades
- It was suggested to have one Site Council with UC and LC specific subcommittees to address issues specific to each school as well as one PTA for fundraising.
- It was decided to specify a set of recommendations around the paired school model implementation and vote on them prior to the school board meetings.
- Mary discussed how the paired school model will benefit families: Nothing will be lost and the greatest benefit will be internally on an administrative level. Long-term, this benefits families. There will also be a better chance that LC will get an assistant principal. May help with budget allocations in the long run.
- Mary stated that it is in writing that pathway and sibling preference is guaranteed.
- Parents outside of Site Council have also expressed concern. It was discussed that it is important to communicate clearly about this change and solicit input and feedback from families.

Talent Development/SIP subcommittee update (Angie, Tim, Joel/Ania)

- T.D. is waiting to see what the district model will look like as far as talent development before proceeding with any major projects
- There are questions about what will happen if new plan does not mesh with current plan for math
- Jan brought up that LC is not demonstrating a year's growth because the students start at a higher baseline. This is an issue for both LC and UC.
- Angie expressed concern there may be duplication of effort in the Talent Development and STEM subcommittees; the suggestion was made to combine efforts in certain areas.
- Talent Development committee would like to work w/PTA, STEM, Communications subcommittees so as not to duplicate efforts
- It was discussed that there is a need for advocacy with district that we need flexibility with regard to math pathways and talent development.

- Mary encouraged parents to e-mail Sara VanDerWerf who is in charge of developing the new district math curriculum at: sarav@mpls.k12.mn.us to express concerns and ask to be involved in the development process
- Fact sheet idea: How many did kids at LC in 1st and 2nd get the math pretests right? Scores? This would be useful information in advocating for advanced learning opportunities for LHCS students.

STEM subcommittee update (Gwen, Lisa)

- Advanced math classes are going to provide anonymous score reports for their students on MCA, MAP
- Again, need advocacy regarding advanced math pathway
- Idea brought up of having a specialist of some sort during media “tech ed” (not shop)
- GISE/GEMS Lake Harriet tournament will be held on January 5th
- Future funding for GISE/GEMS uncertain/unknown
- Gwen will talk to Joel Alfano about STEM funding

Communications subcommittee update (Toni, Heather)

- Website pathway – Lorna Wilson is still working on this

Curriculum discussion (Mary and Barb)

- A group of parents e-mailed Caroline wondering about the LH curriculum “vision”. Questions centered on incorporating STEM into the curriculum, the future of advanced math, and preparation for the IB program at Southwest.
- LHCS is moving to the focused instruction curriculum which includes learning targets. Units are developed by a group of teachers.
- Teachers have been meeting with heads of each department to add depth to units in grades K, 3, 6, and 9. Focused instruction for other grades will roll out next year and the year after.
- Mary will solicit feedback from K, 3, 6, and 9 grade level teams at the end of the year on how the rollout went this year.
- District has been very receptive to teacher feedback on this process.
- Idea was brought forth to bring Dick Schwartz in to speak to PTA about IB program at Southwest.

LC Update (Jan)

- Beams to be fit together over winter break
- Basic color scheme will be blue with sandy colored tiles
- There will be 2 DCD/Wings classrooms next year
- Exterior walls should go up the week of 12/24
- The project is not behind schedule but schedule is out of sequence

Old business and wrap-up (Caroline)

- Caroline will send out an electronic ballot for council members to vote on Site Council and PTA structure under the Paired School model.