

EAGLE EYES MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

ATTENDEES:

Parents/guardians: Chris Sonnier, Carolyn Clark, and Laura Gresham

Staff: Susan Blackwell, Lorraine Loup, Joyce Pourciau, Debbie Anderson, Donna Alleman, and Joey Nipper

AGENDA:

- 1) Establish meeting dates and times for the remainder of the year
- 2) Give a report on the first meeting held in conjunction with the new Director search
- 3) Discuss suggestions and issues that we would like addressed with the school.
- 4) Discuss ways to improve the image and morale of the school, such as reinstating the Empty Bowls program.

NEW BUSINESS DISCUSSION:

Set future meeting dates: Future meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Notifications by e-mail, phone and mail. Maybe we will use the school's JCALL system, too.

We had all attended one of Dr. Fischgrund's meetings, so we skipped this discussion.

Discussed future additional state budget cuts that seem to be inevitable. We need to identify the areas at school that need improvements. Need to be sure that cuts are not from important areas.

Discussed communications within the school. Parent/teacher and teacher/administration communications are lacking and need improvement. Problems seem to be that they are still searching for a principal and two assistant principals. There are no persons in charge to direct and lead communication efforts. Existing personnel don't know what staff has been added and what they do. Parents/staff do not know which staff has dual jobs with LSD and LSVI. Many staff are doing the work for two or more people now. Need to see the hierarchy of personnel.

Donna feels like she is finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. That she may be able to now address these concerns.

Discussed the situation with psychologists and counselors. Problem is that they need to be fluent in sign and that a hard criteria to meet. Very limited field of qualifiers. The psychiatrist did not renew her contract. Need new psychiatrist now too. Need to be proactive, not just putting out fires after they have happened. Possible psychologist intern in NO, maybe grant can cover to move here. There is a vacant counselor position open. Maybe checkout Gallaudet graduates in Dec.

Budget needs to be justified. Maybe take a good look at budget; there has been a hold on purchases, such as supplies. We need to help decide what can be cut and what needs to be kept. Prioritize cutbacks. Need the principals and psychologist.

Back to communications – perception is reality to people, even if it is wrong. The only way to avoid gossip and mistrust is with good communications and correct facts. The morale of the staff is very depressed with uncertainty.

Suggestion for using a Positive Peer Reporting System for the students. A proven system that rewards them for positive reports on their peers. Will be an enhancement to the PBS program. Donna seemed very open to this idea. It will be looked into.

It was suggested to use a similar system for the staff. They didn't think this was a good idea, however, we do need means to improve morale. Donna has set Blue Jeans Day for staff and has removed teachers from lunch duty (paraeducators take care of lunch duty). Everybody was very happy with these changes. Discussion about the uncertainty and no transparency. Donna mentioned starting a faculty and student senate, to represent the members and improve communications. Good idea.

Discussed having Teacher Appreciation once a month – maybe Eagle Eyes can help. How can Eagle Eyes cover cost? Who can pay expenses?

Discussed budgeting for Eagle Eyes – LSD does not have enough budget to cover mailing or appreciation costs. Maybe the Foundation can help. They meet on 10/14. Eagle Eyes need help covering cost of Appreciation, meeting announcement mailings, and newsletter. Discussed technology to open communications with parents outside of BR. How to best disperse Eagle Eyes announcements. Possibly school send out emails for EE, open for discussion.

Need parent help on Grandparent's Day.

Nat'l Day of Writing is Oct 20th. Maybe have a Write contest, send home activity with the kids that weekend. Encourages writing skills.

Meeting adjourned.