

Anvil City Science Academy
Academic Policy Committee
Minutes 09/23/10

Meeting called to order at 5:38 PM.

APC Present: Jane Lando, Paula Kennedy, Julie Kelso, & Elizabeth Coler
Staff Present: Lisa Leeper, Todd Hindman, & Theresa Gartung
Parents Present: Alice Bioff

Enrollment Update:

A fifth grader that decided not to attend ACSA was replaced with the fifth grader that was ranked # 1 on the fifth grade waiting list.

Waiting List Update:

The parent of the fifth grader that decided to not attend ACSA requested the older sibling be removed from the waiting list.

Facilities Update:

The new roof, ceiling, lighting and floors was viewed.

Budget Update:

We have spent \$15,000 on new laptops/ desktops, and ordered additional math books. Mr. Hindman estimates that we have spent \$20,000 on supplies since the beginning of the school year. He will get an update on the budget for the next APC meeting.

School Board Report:

The school board report was reviewed. When the new school board is in place, Mr. Hindman will give the new board the presentation ACSA.

Thematic Curriculum Review:

We will add art and reading to the 4-year rotation of themes and curriculum. Lisa suggests a paid curriculum retreat for the teachers to put together a comprehensive 4-year plan. Julie offered that parents could do some of the research. Liz suggested that we meet a couple of times through the year to get some ideas started and continue the work in the summer. Todd discussed the district's new curriculum map and how we could employ it here at ACSA – it would take time to build the map year after year. Paula made the motion and Liz seconded the motion to use funds to begin the process of reorganizing and developing the curriculum to use funds up to \$3,000 to pay per diem of the teachers to do the work.

Class Schedule Review:

Spelling will be incorporated into our program, most likely, starting the second quarter. Paula commented on the "Spelling Power" program that individualizes the spelling program. Julie said that The Science of Spelling offers us guidelines for what a spelling curriculum should contain. Lisa suggested we look at a vocabulary/spelling combination based on a curriculum that we have here at school.

Camping Trip Report:

The camping trip was fun and rainy. All the kids were well-behaved and participated well.

8th Grade Field Trip:

Request is being made to Senator Begich to visit the Senator's office while in DC.

AIS Program:

We are looking to work with Stephen Blanchett to do an Alaskan Storytelling and Myths art project for Artists in Schools grant ending in a community performance. We need a parent to take over grant writing responsibilities for future years since Margaret's last year is this one.

Student Learning Styles Survey:

John Wehde is taking a doctor's level course that requires a student survey and is asking the APC permission for our students to take it. Liz and Jane commented that we should ask for results in order to help us with curriculum development (if data is appropriate). The APC unanimously agreed that we should participate in the study by asking students to complete the survey.

2010 SBA Results:

Todd said the numbers of students making improvement in their SBA proficiency level is most likely going decrease, since many of the new students are coming in with strong scores and the graph is only based on movement within the proficiency levels.

Comments:

Todd announced that a task force for keeping kids from remediation in college will be here to visit and Todd will speak to the group as a whole. He is looking for any ideas to include in his speech. Todd says he will address the struggles that schools have in rural Alaska.

Lisa and Todd are wondering whether ACSA students should take the MAP tests. Most APC members agreed that the results of the MAP test are not that informative to parents. Paula and Liz say that they take too many days away from instruction.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.