

Redwood High School

Minutes of the March 5, 2008 DCC Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. Present: Karen Barrett, Fran Bozdech, Heather Curtaz, Chris Gilmore, David Goldsmith, Jennifer Harris, Ann Jaime, Skip Lovelady, Keith Murray, Nancy Neu, David Plescia, Greg Stevens. Parents: Elaine Bengle. Students: Sarah Barr and Danielle Magaline. Sam Miller took minutes.

Minutes from the 1/16/08 DCC Meeting (Nancy Neu)

The minutes stand as submitted.

Feedback regarding Minimum Day – Open House (Nancy Neu)

Nancy asked the department chairs to give the numbers from their departments regarding date for minimum day (the Friday after Open House or Friday before the break). Some departments did not have a full count or were not polled.

- P.E. – all agree for Friday after Open House
- World Languages – 4 for Friday after Open House and 3 for Friday before break.
- Students – Students had no preference.
- Math - 8.2 for Friday after Open House and 4 for Friday before break.
- Applied Tech. – 1 for Friday after Open House and 2 for Friday before break.
- Social Studies – 13 for Friday before break and 1 for Friday after Open House.
- Classified – Not polled
- Counselors – 4 for Friday before break and 1 for Friday after Open House
- Fine Arts – 2 for Friday before break and 2 for Friday after Open House (missing votes)
- Special Ed. – 4 for Friday before break and 1 for Friday before break
- Science – 10 for Friday after Open House and 4 for Friday before break.
- English – Steve emailed numbers to Nancy.
- Departments missing votes will email them to Nancy. See attached sheet for revised numbers.

Budget (Nancy Neu)

Nancy informed the group about the state budget cuts with regards to education and that other school districts are not fairing as well as our district. Lay-offs are taking place in neighboring districts. Fortunately, we will not have to experience cuts in terms of staffing. Superintendent Bob Ferguson will be attending the staff meeting tomorrow to talk about the budget. Nancy informed the group that half a million will be cut out of budget. We will implement a 10% cut across the board in M & E. The current working budget is now operating with those cuts. We will still receive carry-over, if there is any. Nancy told the chairs that if they run out of money before the end of the year, let her know and she will look into other budgets to help cover the cost. The staff development budget will be cut. Donna will be letting departments know the current status of their budgets. Nancy reiterated how fortunate we are compared to other districts and continue to be mindful that we are a basic aid district. We should be sympathetic and not overly confident, as we are not out of the danger zone yet. Basic aid schools are always a target. Bob Ferguson will give more information at the staff meeting. Nancy explained the difference between a basic aid district and an ADA school. For a basic aid school, we get the majority of our funding from a percentage of the property in lieu of revenue funded. If the property value is high and exceeds the dollar amount limited per student then the school receives that money. We receive the same amount of money no matter how many students we have. For an ADA school, attendance is critical. A parcel tax is separate in addition to basic aid. Our district receives a percentage based on the collection of the property taxes and those prospected figures are looked at every year. That determines the amount of money we receive.

Teacher Rec's for Outside Programs (Fran Bozdech)

Fran advised the group that parents are beginning to ask about summer programs that some teachers are recommending. There are some flashy, impressive advertisements/brochures for college summer programs that get sent to teachers, counselors, and parents. They tell parents that their student has been “nominated” by their teacher to attend their summer program. They also advertise that colleges look at their programs and offer some scholarships for students. Some of those programs can be a good experience for kids, but most are very expensive and very few students receive a scholarship. Some of the same types of programs are offered through College of Marin for much less money. Counselors will not fill-out recommendations. Teachers should be careful as they could be “nominating” students not knowing how expensive these programs are.

STAR Testing (Keith Murray)

Keith handed-out a draft copy of the STAR testing schedule. The actual dates of testing will be April 22nd – 25th. There

will be no changes in testing minutes from last year. Due to some corrections needed, Keith took back the hand-outs and will bring back corrected testing schedule at the next DCC meeting. Nancy informed the group that she and Louise Aliano will be going out to the junior classes to talk about the importance and the seriousness of doing their best. The Blue Ribbon application hinges on our API and AYP score. Nancy let everyone know that they can view the application online. We will find out in September if we are awarded the Blue Ribbon. We need to maintain our API score and have a 95% turn out on the STAR. This year, our seniors will be impacted by San Andrea's performance. San Andreas' administration will be talking to their students about the importance of doing well. Nancy asked that the chairs talk within their departments to get ready.

Staff Development – 2008-09 (Britt Block)

Britt attended the meeting to present a draft calendar for Professional Learning Communities to consider for the future school year. If approved, this calendar would replace the Staff Development calendar from past years. Britt handed-out a copy of the suggested organizational calendar and talked about how, over the course of this year, we have been learning to communicate as a staff. In order to use staff development time more effectively, Britt suggested using this model for the 2009-10 year. It would give the staff the opportunity to use the staff development time for PLC's. Most all meeting time would be in collaborative teams. Each PLC will be a small group and would have at least two collaborators. Since each department is different, they will need to look at that in terms of PLC 1 and PLC 2. The draft schedule showed in one column how staff development time is currently used and a second column showed the proposed use of time. This is a conceptual idea and not in cement. There is accountability in this schedule and this schedule is reflective of prior teacher feedback. There was some concern about the lack of structure and the need to have clear goals. There was also some concern about the time being taken away for the staff to meet as a whole. Britt asked the chairs to take the calendar back to their departments for discussion and bring feedback to the next DCC meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.