



Downtown School
School Site Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2021
2:15 PM / Via Zoom

AGENDA ITEMS

1.0 Opening/Roll Call:

The meeting was held over the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Chairperson, Laura Avila, called the meeting to order at 2:24 PM. Verbal roll call taken.

Members/Officers present:

Noreen Barthelmes (Principal)
Karen Nguyen (Teacher, Yr. 1)
Cherie Payne (Teacher, Yr. 1)
Heather Tablit (Teacher, Yr. 1)
Beverly Langella (Staff, Yr. 1; second term)
Laura Avila (Parent, Yr. 1; second term)
Vanessa Barrientos (Parent, Yr. 1)
Ian Journey (Parent, Yr. 1, DAC Representative)

Members/Officers absent:

Coby Vance (Parent, Yr. 1)
Juan Avila (Parent, Yr. 2)

Visitors:

Susan Klassen (FACE Liaison)
Amanda Mestas (Specially Funded Clerk)
Dr. Chris Cruz-Boone (DAC Representative)
Josephine Resolme (Safety Coordinator, Student, Gr. 6)
Eva Haverstock (Student Body President, Student, Gr. 8)

Quorum Established: Yes

2.0 Minutes:

2.1 Review of minutes from 1/14/2021 Meeting. Mrs. Avila asked for comments or corrections to be made. None given. Noreen Barthelmes motioned to accept the minutes; Beverly Langella seconded. Visual confirmation and verbal confirmation given. Motion passed.

3.0 Open Forum: None

4.0 Site Report:

4.1 Comprehensive School Safety Plan - Mrs. Barthelmes presented the revised Downtown Safety Plan. This 213-page plan is required by California law, however, only 25-30 pages needed to be shared and reviewed. Pages 1-25 are designated and specific to Downtown School. Mrs. Barthelmes thoroughly highlighted staff roles for various safety practices and protocols. The School Safety Map was shared and explained to SSC members and visitors. Brought out how Downtown School conducts safety practice drills either monthly or bi-monthly. The children are taught to listen and obey the direction of the adults on site. Lockout, Lockdown, Shelter in Place, and

Evacuation procedures shared. Downtown strives to maintain a positive culture between our staff, parents, and students. No comments or questions presented for this point of discussion.

5.0 Unfinished Business: None

6.0 New Business:

6.1 Public Hearing Public Hearing pertaining to Downtown's School Safety Plan.

Chairperson, Mrs. Avila opened the floor for public comments:

Dr. Chris Cruz-Boone asked if the volunteer drop-off/pickup lane was in the Safety Plan only or also in the school policy? Also, will the students be allowed to walk to Downtown school once they are allowed back? Mrs. Barthelmes pointed out that dropoff procedures are laid out in the handbook and the Safety Plan with pickup/dropoff and traffic procedures. This coming 21-22 school year, walking will be a good option for parents who can opt for it provided the parents review the safety procedures and school map with their children. Downtown has a crossing guard stationed on M St. Dr. Cruz-Boone asked if parents were aware of safer routes to get to Downtown school from their homes? Mrs. Barthelmes stated there are no bus routes for Downtown. Josephine Resolme prepared a statement and suggestions focused on cyber-bullying and a need to spread positivity. Mentioned how her Leadership Academy had a designated time or day to give positive feedback and "shoutouts." Miss Resolme further brought out that while many students do not have social media, it is a great option for reaching out to other students virtually and spreading positivity. She wrapped up her comments by mentioning how she has been learning video editing and sees it as a great opportunity to get certain students involved in a new hobby to work together and spread positive comments and fun facts about students of Downtown school. Mrs. Barthelmes, Mrs. Avila, and Karen Nguyen all loved the idea of getting many students involved in spreading virtual positivity. Mrs. Barthelmes now mentioned the Flag Raising Ceremony. Mrs. Nguyen and Pam Tarango commented on missing old students during these events. There should be an option for student volunteers to do The Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Avila closed the floor after receipt of public comments.

6.2 Comprehensive School Safety Plan Update and Review.

Mrs. Langella motioned to accept the Safety Plan. Mrs. Nguyen seconded. No further discussion. Mrs. Avila took a verbal roll call vote. Motion approved with no abstention.

7.0 Reports

7.1 DAAPAC [Minutes](#) & [Synopsis](#) - No representative

7.2 DAC [Minutes](#) & [Synopsis](#) (1/5/21)

7.3 DAC [Minutes](#) & [Synopsis](#) (2/2/21)

Dr. Cruz-Boone began by explaining the LCAP Parent University and Emergency Board Meetings and later asked Mrs. Barthelmes about the demographics. At the committee meeting, they discussed the Equity and Social-Emotional draft.

Ian Journey commented on the lack of constructive debate at the meetings and believes the meetings would benefit from more individual thought and opinion sharing. Says people don't feel like they have a say in the decisions that have already been made. There is not much to do until things physically change for the children. Feels frustrated as a parent, citizen, and tax-payer.

Dr. Cruz-Boone clarified that the LCAP meeting did not discuss reopening and everyone seemed able to share at that meeting.

Mr. Journey remarked on the 'hypocrisy' of having summer school this year.

Considering last year's view of it being "not important," what changed this year? Seeing its importance to students, he is glad the district is reconsidering it. Cherie Payne wondered why the district is considering being open for summer school but not opening now? "It is frustrating and confusing." Dr. Cruz-Boone gave a rich explanation as to the reason. Mrs. Payne says there is an inequality. Why are other schools opening, but not Downtown? If it is because of rising or excess Covid-19 cases on the Eastside, then shouldn't the kids now have "antibodies, immunities, and be okay to return?" Mrs. Barthelmes reminded SSC members that the District Wellness centers have been approved as vaccination sites with nurses on staff, ready to give vaccines to all eligible persons. Also desires to be back on-site, in person, with children so we can "do our jobs."

7.4 DELAC [Minutes](#)

No DELAC Representatives at Downtown. Updated SSC Agenda for the current meeting will be shared with members after adjournment.

8.0 Announcement -

8.1 FACE updates -

Susie Klassen highlighted upcoming FACE events and encouraged parent participation.

8.2 Next SSC Meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2021 (2:15 - 3:15 PM) via Zoom

Final comments from Mrs. Barthelmes included working feverishly to update the school plan and back-to-school surveys for Certified and Classified staff, parents, and students grades 4-8. All responses will be anonymous.

Mrs. Barthelmes motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Nguyen seconded the motion. Mrs. Avila adjourned the meeting at 3:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

SSC Secretary

Principal