District Parent Council
February 12, 2013 Minutes – 9:30 am Timberlane Board Room

Present: Debbie Walton, Michelle Lane, Amy Donellan, Erica Loomis, Liesel Carlson, Abraham Engeda, Linda Wychers-Caldwell, Elizabeth Vanis, Jeanne Maguire, Chandra Colaresi, ML Konett, Kimm Waldo, Carolyn Damstra, Ashley Ahlin, Deanna Sakamoto, Rebecca Renfro, Babs Krause, Sarah Priesser, Sarah Kalt, Tobin Craig

I. Welcome by Liesel Carlson and introductions

II. February agenda approved with removal of Dr Chapin's verbal Superintendent Report and Round Table participation (gas leak at Pinecrest precluded him from attending the meeting.) December minutes approved.

III. Secretary's Report – J Maguire
Reviewed new developments in website information: Tech Bond icon on district page and FAQ and BoardBook icon on Board of Ed link, which enables community members to see the board meeting agenda attachments and other items made available to school board members during the meeting. Reviewed the January DPC community forum highlighting information about the upcoming Feb Tech Bond vote.

IV. Middle School Configuration Ad Hoc Task Force Report – L Wychers- Caldwell
Reviewed the gist of discussions that took place from start of configuration meetings in October til summary and recommendation report, which was delivered to the school board at the end of January. Written configuration summary included in DPC packet. Most of the discussions centered on programmatic ideas, with the resulting committee recommendation to change the school from the current jr. high format to a middle school model with team teaching. This will better support students at all levels and enable teachers to know their students better. They reviewed possible physical renovations resulting in a recommendation to reconfigure the entry, which all students would use, to improve visibility of all those entering; convert the pool to a 2nd gym; and add a wing of classrooms, most likely on the southeast portion of the building along Burcham. Much of this could change as the Board needs to discuss the report, weigh other issues and determine budgetary allowance. The Board will be making a decision in mid-March.

V. Strategic Planning Committee Report – B. Krause
DPC Representatives for this group are Linda Wychers-Caldwell and ML Konett, however in lieu of their inability to attend the first meeting, Babs gave a summary report on what was discussed. The strategic planning process is once again being facilitated by Carmelita Murphy, who was hired to facilitate for the last 5 year planning process as well. The planning group reviewed and discussed the district's mission statement, values and beliefs. The former strategic plan for 2007-2012 can be found online for reference.

VI. School Board Report – Babs Krause
Written superintendent's reports for the past 4 meetings are in DPC packet. Babs reviewed the Board retreat, new hires, and fielded questions about process for continued discussion regarding the 6 – 8 configuration recommendation, and about points in the last Superintendent's report

(Safe Routes to Schools, Working Differently document.) Encouraged DPC group to view last night's Board meeting where Grant Chandler gave an excellent explanation about focus schools and the process used to effectively measure and address the needs of our lowest performing students.

VII. Round Table Discussion

Issue: After school program use of school facilities

Confusion expressed over policy regarding when parent-sponsored groups are required to pay for use of facilities. Babs clarified that this policy is in the midst of approval and finalization. The area under discussion is when non-profit or for profit groups are sponsored by parent council organizations. Proposed policies before the Board can be found in the Boardbook.

Issue: Assessment, identification and delivery of appropriate curriculum for students who can meet and surpass grade level material:

Liesel distributed a 23 page handout prepared by Cliff Seybert titled "Response to Intervention for Gifted Students." Frustration expressed about the apparent absence of a systemic approach to identifying and meeting the needs of higher achieving students. Conversation focused on multiple related frustrations surrounding this issue within the K-6 parent population. Many concerns surrounded the negative impacts of not meeting the needs of these children, which could lead to academic disinterest, behavioral issues or intellectual laziness, which sets a poor pattern for their later educational years in high school and college.

Group discussed appropriate forums to broach this topic for greater attention given that it has already been discussed at the DPC level for **many** years. Amy Donellan represented this concern at last month's Academic Committee. The Academic Committee will be placing this concern on an upcoming agenda; Babs was not certain if it will be on the upcoming February 20 agenda, but will find out and let DPC members know.

Group reviewed the key points verbally delivered by Amy to the Academic Committee, which will be written and delivered to the AC chair for consideration. The group added the following to those questions:

- What professional instruction or support are EL teachers getting specifically to train them to differentiate?
- Why are there obstacles currently in place to allow students to team and learn at more accelerated levels?
- What specific assessments are being used through RtI to identify students who have mastered their level "checkpoints?"
- How much time of our intervention coaches is spent on interventions versus coaching teachers to provide enrichment?
- At what point in our timeline will EL systematically identify and meet the need of those students who are not receiving material suitable for their advanced learning levels?

Group discussed possible solutions which include the notion of 504 plans for students who suffer from lack of challenge. Other solutions include embracing the philosophy to only advance those

students to the next grade when they have exhibited learning a high percentage of grade level material. This would help reduce the wide learning gap in each grade.

Frustration expressed about lack of a fuller foreign language program at the K-6 level.

Group agreed to form an ad hoc committee specifically to act as an aggregation point for these concerns, collect actual data about the issue and effectively communicate this information within the system. This committee will be co-chaired by Ashley Ahlin (Marble/K-6 south tier) and Debbie Walton (Donley/K-6 north tier). The group suggested that word be spread about the effort to express the need to address this issue and to have parents write letters and come forward as a group to the next school board meeting. Supporters of the tech bond would be careful to not allow expression of their dissatisfaction to negatively impact viewer's perceptions to support funding district technology needs.

VIII. Individual School Reports
In the interest of time, DPC Reps were asked to either table their reports til next month or, if there is something pressing, to send them to Liesel Carlson electronically.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Maguire