

STUART BAKER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015

ATTENDED BY: VICKI HOARE, SAM ITANI, JEN WOOD, CHRISTY VANDERSTARRE, JO MACARTHUR, JENNIFER HORNER, PEGGY BARRETTE, KAREN PETINELLA, JIM HOPKINS, BILL MOSHENKO, HEATHER DEVEAUX

1. PARENT ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE 2 – JO

REVIEW:

- THERE ARE FIVE AREAS OR 'PILLARS' OF PARENT ENGAGEMENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING: TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL, VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL, ENGAGING WITH TEACHERS, VOLUNTEER ON PARENT COUNCIL, AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT.
- WE HAVE DISCUSSED MOTIVATING FACTORS AROUND EACH AREA, AND WILL NOW DISCUSS BARRIERS. NOTE THAT IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING THAT WAS A MOTIVATOR COULD ALSO BE A BARRIER.

BARRIERS:

- TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL:
 - CHILD SHUTTING PARENT(S) OUT.
 - TIME CONSTRAINTS OF PARENTS
 - PARENT NOT HAVING A LOT OF INFO ABOUT DAY-TO-DAY SCHOOL ROUTINES, ISSUES, ETC. (NO FRAME OF REFERENCE)
 - MISUNDERSTANDING/DISCONNECT BETWEEN PARENT'S EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL AND CHILD'S EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL.
 - UNCOMMUNICATIVE CHILD
 - PARENT UNSURE OF WHAT TO BELIEVE FROM A YOUNG CHILD'S STORIES.
 - NOT CHOSING THE 'RIGHT' MOMENT TO ASK QUESTIONS, EG, WHEN CHILD IS HUNGRY OR TIRED, IN A BAD MOOD.
- VOLUNTEERING AT SCHOOL:
 - TIME, OR LACK THEREOF
 - TRANSPORTATION ISSUES
 - POLICE CHECK REQUIREMENT – WILLINGNESS, TIME, TRAVEL TO MINDEN

- FINDING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT INTIMIDATING OR UNCOMFORTABLE
- NOT KNOWING IF THEIR SKILLS ARE VALUABLE TO THE SCHOOL, OR A GOOD FIT. (SUGGESTED SOLUTION : A LIST OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND THE SKILL SETS BEING SOUGHT)
- NOT FEELING WELCOMED IN THE SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM
- PEOPLE THEY DON'T LIKE AT THE SCHOOL (PERSONAL CONFLICTS? CLIQUES?)
- PARENT NOT HAPPY WITH SCHOOL OR TEACHER IN GENERAL – WAS IT ONE UNRESOLVED ISSUE? AN ACCUMULATION?
- ENGAGING WITH THE TEACHER:
 - NOT WANTING TO BE A BOTHER TO THE TEACHER, TAKING TOO MUCH OF THEIR TIME
 - TEACHER NOT WELCOMING OR NOT COMFORTABLE WITH OTHER ADULTS IN THEIR ROOM.
 - COMMUNICATION METHOD – DIFFERENT TEACHERS PREFER DIFFERENT METHODS OF CONTACT WITH PARENTS & CAREGIVERS – EMAIL, PHONE, NOTES? (LABOUR RELATIONS ISSUE?)
 - ACCESSIBILITY OF TEACHER – WHEN CAN THE SCHEDULE OF TEACHER AND PARENT MATCH UP TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION?
 - PERSONALITY CONFLICTS
 - DIDN'T HAVE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL WHEN THEY WERE THERE, CARRY THOSE FEELINGS INTO DEALINGS WITH PRESENT SCHOOL.
 - NOT SEEING TEACHER AS AN ALLY OR PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION
- PARENT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER:
 - WORRIED ABOUT LEVEL OF COMMITMENT
 - TIME / SCHEDULE
 - CHILD CARE – DON'T KNOW CAREGIVER, SPECIALIZED CARE REQUIREMENTS OF SOME CHILDREN
 - SCARED – DON'T KNOW ANYONE AT THE TABLE? CLIQUES.
 - DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AT THE SCHOOL COUNCIL TABLE. EXPECTATIONS OF BOREDOM, NOT SURE WHAT THEY COULD OFFER.
 - NOT AWARE OF ROLE / IMPACT / GOALS OF SCHOOL COUNCIL, OR CARRY A MISCONCEPTION OF WHAT IT IS OR DOES.
 - NOT AWARE THAT IT'S OK TO BE AN OBSERVER. WORRIED ABOUT EXPECTATIONS.

- VOLUNTEER EXHAUSTION / BURNOUT. MANY VOLUNTEERS TEND TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT.
- NOT INTERESTED.
- FEAR OF REJECTION
- NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER COMMITTEES AND THEIR TENDENCY TOWARD RUNNING FAR OVER TIME AND AND/OR ACCOMPLISHING LITTLE
- REPUTATION OF SCHOOL COUNCILS AS EITHER TROUBLE MAKERS OR SCHOOL BOARD RUBBER STAMPERS
- HOMEWORK SUPPORT:
 - EDUCATION SYSTEM CHANGES – NOT SURE HOW TO HELP, NOT UNDERSTANDING THE WORK
 - NO TIME
 - CHILD REFUSES
 - PARENT REFUSES
 - PARENTS DO HOMEWORK FOR CHILD
 - A DESIRE TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH CHILD
 - LACK OF RESOURCES
 - DISAGREE WITH HOMEWORK AS A REQUIREMENT, OR WITH QUALITY / QUANTITY OR FREQUENCY OF HOMEWORK
 - LACK OF A GOOD ENVIRONMENT/LOCATION TO DO HOMEWORK
- PROGRAMS WE ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING FOR PARENT ENGAGEMENT
 - TALKING ABOUT SCHOOL :
 - SCHOOL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES (DID YOU KNOW)
 - PARENT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER
 - CHILDCARE AND PIZZA
 - PEOPLE FOR EDUCATION AND OTHER NEWSLETTERS
 - FUNDRAISING – SUN HATS, SKATING, TABLETS,
 - PARENT RESOURCE LIBRARY (FITS IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES – TALKING, HOMEWORK HELP)
 - FUN NIGHT (FITS IN FOUR CATEGORIES – TALKING, VOLUNTEERING, ENGAGING WITH TEACHER, PARENT COUNCIL VOLUNTEER)
 - OPEN HOUSE
 - MOVIE NIGHT(S)
 - PRO GRANT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS
- **ACTION : ALL - FOR NEXT MEETING, PLEASE CONSIDER PROGRAMS THAT SCHOOL COUNCIL COULD RUN (OR SUGGEST TO THE SCHOOL), AND/OR IMPROVEMENTS THAT COULD BE MADE TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.**

2. PRO GRANT

- SUBJECT: CYBER AWARENESS AND SAFETY;
- NEXT YEAR'S APPLICATION DUE MAY 19TH
- KAREN HAD A PHONE DISCUSSION WITH THE OPP COMMUNITY LIAISON DIANNE DAUPHINE. SHE IS AVAILABLE TO DO PRESENTATIONS, AND IS WILLING TO BE PART OF THIS PROCESS IN WHATEVER CAPACITY FITS OUR PROGRAM AND GRANT.
- THERE ARE A FEW POSSIBILITIES FOR SPEAKERS FOR A PRO GRANT EVENT. CONSIDER HAVING MULTIPLE SPEAKERS/WORKSHOPS, THAT PARENTS COULD CHOOSE THEIR AREA(S) OF INTEREST?
 - WE DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN PARENTS, BUT ONLY TO EDUCATE THEM A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT THEIR KIDS MAY BE DOING ONLINE, WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES, AND WHAT ARE THE RISKS.
 - WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT ANY INFORMATION WE OFFER IS ACCURATE AND CURRENT. POSSIBLY A PANEL, FOR A Q&A, RATHER THAN ONE OR MORE PEOPLE PUT OUT AS 'EXPERTS'. WE ARE CONSIDERING ASKING DIANNE DAUPHINE, LORAN UPTON, JO MACARTHUR, AND A TEENAGER OR TWO TO SIT ON A PANEL (A COUPLE OF SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED, TBA)
 - THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF PARTNERING WITH JDH FOR THIS GRANT, BUT THERE IS CONCERN THAT THE FOCUS OF JDH AGE STUDENTS/PARENTS WOULD BE DIFFERENT FROM AN EVENT GEARED TOWARD PARENTS OF CHILDREN FROM JK TO GRADE 3
 - **ACTION** : JEN W TO APPROACH CONNOR MARSDEN
 - **ACTION** : VICKI TO COMPLETE THE PRO GRANT APPLICATION, AND CALL ON SAM, JO, AND/OR HEATHER FOR SUPPORT AS NEEDED.

3. FUNDRAISING MASTER LIST

THERE WERE FOUR AREAS THAT WERE 'VOTED ON' AS MOST POPULAR FOR FUNDRAISING:

1. REDOING / CHANGING LINES FOR HOPSCOTCH – ESTIMATE \$1,200
 2. OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT – EG, CRAZY CARPETS ARE CURRENTLY AT THE END OF THEIR LIFE. THEY NEED TO BE REPLACED, BUT ALSO, THEY NEED A HEAVY-DUTY OUTDOOR CONTAINER – ESTIMATE \$1,500
 3. NEW JERSEYS FOR TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS-COUNTRY TEAMS – UP TO \$700
 4. OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACE – THE SCHOOL JUST GOT SOME FUNDING TO PUT TOWARD OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT AND/OR LEARNING SPACE, INCLUDING STORAGE OF EQUIPMENT – ANY BALANCE REMAINING FROM OUR SURPLUS WILL BE SAVED AND PUT TOWARD A MULTI-YEAR PROJECT FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING
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5. NEW TABLETS WERE ON OUR ORIGINAL LIST. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A SMALL SURPLUS IN THE SCHOOL'S ACCOUNT, WITH WHICH THE SCHOOL HAS PURCHASED IPADS FOR CLASSROOMS. SO WE CAN REMOVE THIS ITEM FROM OUR LIST.

4. FUN NIGHT – BILL

- A. KAREN WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS FOOD FOR FUN NIGHT IN RELATION TO SCHOOL/BOARD POLICY AROUND FOOD IN SCHOOLS. THERE NEED TO BE OPTIONS IN FOODS OFFERED, TO PROVIDE FOR DIFFERENT DIETS, AS WELL AS HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES.
- B. DEFER FUN NIGHT DISCUSSION AND PLANNING FOR NEXT MEETING.

NEXT MEETING TO BE MAINLY ON TWO SUBJECT AREAS: FUN NIGHT AND PRO GRANT.

REMAINING 2014-15 SBES MEETING DATES:

MAY 11/15 – FUN NIGHT PLANNING MEETING (SAM UNAVAILABLE – PLEASE CONTINUE WITHOUT ME) – THIS IS ALSO A JOINT MEETING WITH JDH DUE TO TIMING OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S PRO GRANT IN CASE THERE IS INTEREST IN PARTNERING ON SOMETHING

JUNE 17/15 – WRAP UP MEETING