

Island Park Parent Advisory Council
October 12, 2010
3:45 – 5:15
Dr. Nancy Loorem's Office

Members: Nancy Loorem Principal, Emily Wion (Kindergarten), Kathy Gersch (1st Grade), Catheryne Nguyen (2nd grade), Miriam Finch (3rd grade), Katheryn Gile (4th Grade), Lori Coe (5th Grade), Debbie Hanson (PTA Rep), Teacher Representatives: Susan Hamp and Tiffany Nelson; Janet Frohnmeyer (School Board Rep), TBD (ELL)

Guests:

Members Not Present: Lori Coe, Janet Frohnmeyer

Agenda

1. **Welcome, Review Agenda** **Nancy**
2. **Introductions Review PAC Role** **Nancy & Group**
3. **Nuts & Bolts** **Nancy & Debbie**
 - **Meeting Dates: IP PAC Meeting Dates Changed as Follows**
November 16th, December 14th, January 18th, February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 7th
 - **Volunteer Training**
A thank you to all the parents who have helped with the training! We'll try to group trainings but you may have some parents ask throughout the year. We've decided not to use videotaped trainings as being able to have that personal interaction is valued. We need to update the volunteer information; Kathy will look to see if she has the electronic version. Should the volunteer training be placed under the PTA umbrella under New Family?
 - **IP District Advisory Committee Representation**
Emily and Catheryne will both serve on a rotating basis. Emily will attend for the PAC this week. (Subsequent to our meeting Emily found that she was unable to attend this Friday's meeting.)
4. **Current Topics:** **Representatives**
 - **Grade Level Reports**
 - **Kindergarten** –
 - lots of volunteer requests, questions typical from new parents, questions about class size in Berkshire's class with the inclusion of out-of-district students. Nancy explained that out-of-district students in the K classes are partially due to older siblings (this is a district policy). Historically the ½ day classes have been smaller, partially because there is a higher demand for KAP. Out-of-District enrollment is reviewed on a year-to-year basis. Any new K students will be placed in the ½ day K program.
 - The separate recess has been a big hit and seen as a great idea.
 - **1st Grade** – no news to report.
 - Questions about hearing that some 1st grade students were moved out a class right after the classes had been set. This confusion may be due to a Skyward complication on the day class assignments were sent out. The policy is that class lists are made and it is rare that a move would be made. It is important to remember that the principal may make a decision to make a move but this is a rare instance. Parents can always communicate what type of teaching style is best for their child via the Special Consideration Form if there is a true special reason for this consideration. In the 4 years Nancy has been here, she has only made 2 alterations due to special considerations after class lists were published.
 - **2nd Grade** –
 - Big Toy: there is a concern that it is dangerous (a child did fall last week and the aide car was called as a precaution- she was fine). Some of the instances occurred outside of school time; during school time there are rules that are followed. It is not made for very young children.
 - Lunch- kids not eating their lunches. Would having recess before eating be a better choice? Cathryne shared an article that has been circulated about this issue. The article is something that Nancy is aware of.
 - **3rd Grade** – no news to report

- **4th Grade** – no news to report
- **5th Grade** –
 - Some questions about the boy/girl combinations at the beginning of the year but not a concern
- **ELL** –
 - Kristin Kim has been a great addition (she speaks Korean which is wonderful!). We are having an ELL open house tonight and will see if there are any parents that would like to be a PAC Rep.
- **PTA** –
 - Some positions still need to be filled
 - Gary Plano will be speaking this Monday at 9:30 to speak on the state of the district

5. 2010-11 Planning & Topics

- **IP School Mission Statement in Light of Board Adopted Mission** (*ran out of time*)
- **Improving Student Relations – Relational Aggression**
 - This is an issue we are really working to address this year. We had the Taproot Theatre presentation at the beginning of the year and Nancy w/ Miss Elsbeth (school counselor) has gone to all the intermediate classrooms to talk about bullying. We do not tend to have the physical bullying at IP but we are dealing with *relational aggression* bullying. Nancy would like to have the PAC take on this topic as an educational opportunity and venue for parent education.
- **School Facilities Planning**
- **School Improvement Plan 2010-11**
- **Planning School Improvement Plan 2011-12**
- **Other**

6. Updates:

- **Art Bus – Looking to 2011-12**
 - There is a parent group in the district that is working to create an Art Bus that would be a portable art classroom and a certificated teacher.
 - The goal is for each school to have 6-7 weeks of art instruction.
 - This might be in place of our Art Docents/Artist-In-Residence.
- **Reports on 2020 Board Policy and Goal: Personalized Learning**
- **Team Reports on Grants**
- **School Improvement Planning 2010-11**
 - Continued implementation of the new Houghton Mifflin Math curriculum
 - Continued work on the assessment plans/strategies for specific feedback to help with report cards
 - Continue implementing focused Learning Support Interventions for struggling learners
 - Support teachers efforts to personalize learning for students based on the Board's goal and the District's 2020 Vision