

Island Park Parent Advisory Council
February 15, 2011
3:45 – 5:15
Dr. 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), Mana Chun (ELL)

Guests:

Members Not Present:

Agenda

1. Welcome, Review Agenda

Nancy

- Introduce our new ELL Representative Mana Chun
- Congratulations to IP! We were selected by the state with an “Overall Outstanding School” Award

2. Facilities Discussion Follow Up and Principal's Presentation to Committee

Nancy

- 2011-2012 Looks okay, no expected big jumps in enrollment; IP is the smallest school of all 3 schools and location on ICW is more difficult so no more classes are expected to be added to IP
- Janet shared that the schools are doing a great job in utilizing the facilities we have but we are overcrowded; the committee is doing a lot of analysis of needs, wishes and possibilities including having an architect come and look at all the schools and speaking to the school principals for input. Committee members have also been visiting schools in other districts for ideas
- This committee does not design the building; we are determining from looking at the demographics & the structure of the buildings what the recommended amount of schools and whether schools need to be remodeled or rebuilt. It is important for us to be equitable, so building one new school and remodel the others wouldn't be optimal.
- What will the cost of rebuilding be? An architect will give us input and we will work with professionals to work up that proposal. All 3 elementary principals support the idea of 3 new schools that are large enough to ebb and flow with growth instead of building a 4th school keeping the operating costs at a minimum.

3. Ally Group Update

Emily, Miriam

- Emily, Catherine and Miriam are on a committee to brainstorm how to encourage positive relationships and how to be an “ally”, especially when presented with bullying behavior. The focus is on how parents can help with this process. Other members are Amy Melick, Nancy Loorem, Elsbeth Ruder and Kristin Brintnall.

4. District Advisory Council

Susan & Emily

- Notes were sent out via email.

5. 2011-2012 Budget Planning

Nancy & Debbie

- Goal is to raise 1.2 million via Bridge the Gap where last year it was 850K to keep things at status quo. If we only raise what we did last year, we would lose 1/2 teacher per grade level across the district, which would be 4/5 at the elementary level. Each school principal is being asked to put together a proposal to fit this budget.
- The Bridge the Gap committee will be visiting stage lawmakers to share their concerns about state funding
- We realize there are many needy areas including Hand-in-Hand (HIH) as well as Bridge the Gap. Each family needs to figure out how to give. Please help parents understand where all the funds go and why each is so important. For more information about the HIH program, please visit:
http://islandparkptahih.com/Island_Park_PTA_HIH/Home.html
- Nancy shared we have not been asked to do any other budget reductions for next year other than the possible loss of 4.5 FTE across the elementary level. To balance the budget this year, the state looked at all the districts' budgets and took money back from those that had money in reserve. This included MISD.

6. Current Topics:

Representatives

▪ **Grade Level Reports**

- **Kindergarten** – 1 kindergarten class is larger than the other classes that has raised concern with parents in this classroom. Nancy is looking into the possibility of having additional aide in this classroom.
- **1st Grade** – all is quiet
- **2nd Grade** – all is quiet

- **3rd Grade** – all is quiet
- **4th Grade** – all is quiet
- **5th Grade** – all is quiet except for the excitement of the upcoming musical!
- **ELL** – a new family who doesn't speak much English didn't know about early release; it would be great to have the PTA match new families with a mentor family for the 1st month or so to help with these issues.
- **PTA** – The school auction is coming up March 19th; it is going to be a great event, at a great site, with wonderful entertainment. PTA is hoping to have an PTA website and is being worked out by Lucretia Hughes. All elementary schools will be using the constant news templates in the near future which will be a huge timesaver as well as a clearer and more professional presentation. Also looking at revising the frequency of
- **Staff** – 1) thank you for all your fundraising – it really makes a difference in the classroom; 2) parents requesting conferences during class time or during breaks without setting up an appointment; 3) parking and pick-up etiquette and understanding- this has been addressed many ways; ideas were suggested to a) have teachers and room parents send it out, b) having it placed in the parent packet, c) have signage that might make it clearer, d) have students brainstorm on how to communicate this to the parents.

7. Educational Effectiveness Survey

Nancy, Susan & Tiffany

- **Personalized Learning Dashboard**

- Nancy shared the dashboards for MISD & IP and explained the information included. It included data from the past 2 school years. We are really trying to make sure we get as many parents, staff and students to participate so our data is as complete as possible as this will be used in creating our 2011-2012 School Improvement Plan.
- All surveys should be completed by the end of February

- **School Improvement Plan Data**

5. Island Park Mission Statement

Nancy

- Interesting fact that has come from the past 2 years of data is that the faculty believes the IP Mission is not well known and used in planning instruction. Thus, the Principal's Cabinet looked at the MISD Board policy, components we strongly value from the EES, as well as other school's missions to create a starting point "draft" for creating a new IP Mission statement.
- Nancy shared the draft mission. Our next step is for each member to look at what they feel our mission should be and what do we want for our students in this learning community. Next time we will discuss this and brainstorm how to engage the larger community.

Future Agenda Item: educate the broader community on what PAC is, its role in the school, and how to best communicate with the parents in a regular manner