

CSC Meeting Minutes: February 7, 2013

Welcome to everyone. Thanks to Sian again for bringing food and drinks.

Present: Wendy Ladner; Sara McDonnell; Ksenia Popke; Susan Roberston; Whitney Colley; Lucy Pfeffer; Martha Biery; Principal Jennifer Harris; Debbie Stricker, Sara McDonnell, Betsy Sedig, Sian Miletich

Community Members Present: Justine McKenzie

Welcome and Introductions: Welcome Justine McKenzie for coming to the meeting.

Community Input:

Justine was excited to be at the meeting and wanted to congratulate the teachers on their awards again this year. Then the teachers reiterated that they could not do it without the hard work of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade teachers.

Susan wanted to thank the teachers for doing backwards day. They raised over \$400 for homelessness.

Safety Committee Update:

Student Safety Patrol: A student at Cory, Harper Ediger, has started the Safety Student Patrol. She has meetings and ensures that her team adheres to the guidelines that are set out as well as the rules and regulations.

The Safety Committee: This new committee had its first meeting on 2/6/13.. There are 5 parents that are on the committee. They met as a group and it was explained to them that it is under the CSC. The parents that make up the Safety Committee are very excited and have careers in safety and are therefore bringing a lot of expertise to the table. The Safety Committee is going to look at various issues at Cory. Including, but limited to: feedback from survey that has been sent out, morning arrival changes, DOGS (dads of great students), and additional items.

Parent and Community Engagement:

The Survey: Jennifer, Carol and Susan decided to hand out the survey based on the concerns raised by parents about the change in the morning routine at Cory. There were some changes made to the survey from the one that was handed to us at the CSC meeting. The surveys are not going to be distributed to everyone. If someone wants to fill out the survey they can ask for a survey. They are only on paper and not electronic. The staff received it to complete next week. We are hoping to get about 25 surveys back.

PTA Wrap Up: A discussion ensued about what transpired at the PTA meeting on Friday. Everyone agreed that the parents, teachers and Principal are all working together to try to create a high academic culture at Cory. The question was raised as to if there is an outline or plan that we can follow to ensure that we communicate better with parents and teacher.

Spring CSC Forum: Susan would like the topic to be parent and community engagement. Topics of discussion could include the creation of an academic culture at Cory, the Cory vacation policy, attendance, volunteerism, etc. Another item that should be discussed is How to communicate at Cory. Susan and Jennifer are going to work on a document that outlines where parents can go when various issues come up (for example: PTA vs. CSC vs. Jennifer). The spring forum will take place on Thursday, April 18th.

Superintendent Parent Forum Updates:

Tom talked about the budget and bonds. Then they did a focus on middle and high schools. They had 4 schools featured. Susan highlighted a presentation by Kunsmiller K-8 that emphasized the importance of parent involvement and the role of a volunteer coordinator. They keep a list of volunteer jobs for each teacher, then any parent coming in to the school can help with any job. CSC discussion about this indicated a desire for an website-based list that teachers and parents can access easily. Cory teachers would also like help tutoring before or after school.

Budget Overview:

DPS Budget Overview: Jennifer explained that in her recent conference call DPS was discussing the 3 DPS Priorities:

- 1) Grow the Pie: Increase revenue by seeking outside financing
- 2) Push money out to schools: only 5% of budget goes to 900 Grant Street (Central Overhead)
- 3) Giving Schools Flexibility on how they spend their budget

Reserves: 2011/2012 they have spent \$10 million, 2012/2013 they spent \$20 million, by 2013/2014 they are hoping to not take any more money from the reserve account.

Per Pupil Funding: Has gone down for the past 4 years but will go up in 2013-2014.

Cory Proposed 2013/2014 Budget: With Student Based Budgeting, Jennifer's proposed budget looks a lot like this year. Notable items and questions on the proposed budget are as follows:

- Mill Levy funds for Tutoring: Technically for grades 4, 6, 8, 12 only, though Cory is considered a "loose" school (since most of our kids are "satisfactory") and may be able to use the funds at different grade levels and for other subjects besides just math. We can use the funds in different ways since most of our kids are considered "satisfactory". Likely to be two paras as SLT prefers this.
- Enrichment: Jennifer proposed an additional .5 PE instructor in order to give more consolidated planning time to teachers. Susan suggested using it for an existing .5 of art and then using the remaining money to increase GT allocation to 1.0. The teachers agreed that they would rather have increased GT hours and support versus planning time.
- Technology: Cory will need to get ready for PARCC (the new TCAP) with the \$48,500 we are allotted from the bond and mill. DPS has to get us ready for PARCC.
- Psychologist time: Jennifer would like to increase this to .6 (from .5)
- Music: The music budget is uncertain until we gain information on which part of that position will be paid via the mill levy.
- Learn to Lead: Jennifer said there might be a possibility that Tammy Geisinger can have a Learn to Lead position at Cory. DPS would pay .5 and Cory would have to come up with the additional \$20,000. Further discussion would be needed if this were to be a possibility.

Concerns expressed about the budget:

- Susan raised a concern that we only have a .5 GT allocation. As an HGT magnet school, .5 does not allow any teacher observation or training. Grace Hopley has said she would like to do additional enrichment before school (such as a geography club) but she doesn't have any time in her schedule to do this.

The CSC will have a special meeting for the budget on Thursday February 28 from 3:45 to 4:45.

Other Issues:

There were no other issues at this time.

Adjourn Meeting - 6:03 pm