

## CSC Meeting Minutes

Date: Oct 12, 2017

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Cory Elementary School Library

### Attendees

#### CSC committee members

- Bill Esbenshade, Co-Chair & Parent Rep
- Tyson Sollenberger, Co-Chair & Parent Rep
- Jennifer Daily, Secretary & Parent Rep
- Jennifer Grumman, PTA & Parent Rep
- Liz Tencate, Principal
- Patty Kozma, Primary Teacher Rep
- Katie McOwen, 4/5 Teacher Rep
- Angela Alexander, Specials Teacher Rep

### Discussion Items

<b>Agenda Item #1</b>	Managing school temperatures - fundraising possibilities
Options/Points Raised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of the heat – hasn't been bad recently, by keeping the boiler off etc. To put AC in a school would cost ~millions, will not happen.</li> <li>• <b>New funding for school improvements available</b>, two buckets of funds:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Cooling upgrades:</b> All DPS schools that do not have AC will benefit from an earmarked fund for a cooling systems. Expect to lower classroom temps by 10 degrees.</li> <li>○ <b>Innovative classrooms fund.</b> Bond money for school improvement. Cory will get \$80,000, to be spent by school to enhance learning environment for kids. Staff to identify priorities (e.g. structural, collaborative furniture, small group meeting spaces).; 2-5% of the money has to be kids choice/input (student council). Liz has walked building with the district's project manager to get some ideas/rough estimates. Next step to bring in architects to walk the building. Recommendation from project manager: re-think office and entry. Ideas will come to CSC. Timeline for improvements: summer break and ready next fall.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need to dispose of some old coolers that PTA bought in basement; book room.</li> </ul>
Decision or Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No need to fundraise for heat mitigation, district will do it.</li> <li>• Opportunity to think about innovative classroom funding in light of Cory Vision, GT/HGT differentiation etc. (see #3 below).</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Item #2:</b>	Scheduling of events, divorced or separated families

Options/Points Raised:	Evening and special events at Cory are often scheduled for Thursday or Friday night, which can be difficult for some families. Suggestion to schedule some events on other week nights. CSC discussed that there is no real rationale for the Th/Fri preference, shouldn't be too difficult to offer other nights.
Decision or Recommendations:	<b>Be more mindful of the event scheduling – try to vary the days of the week.</b>
<b>Agenda Item #3:</b>	Fall Forum — scheduling, agenda, and preparation for GT and Visioning updates
Options/Points Raised:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSC reviewed the purpose of the Fall Forum, key points: in CSC the by-laws to have two constituency meetings/year. CSC organizes and leads the meetings, w/support of principal.</li> <li>• Discussion of previous Fall Forum / Spring Forum: topics included curriculum discussions; concerns w/in the parent community/school; have thought about multicultural night.</li> <li>• Potential topics for this year: Feedback on bond money (however do not have suggestions from staff yet). Update on principal search (however, there is no update right now). GT programming (but still a work in progress), vision/mission of school (also still work in progress).</li> <li>• <b>Decided to delay the Fall Forum until winter, when CSC has more concrete ideas to present and seek community feedback on.</b></li> <li>• Noted that a visioning survey was completed last spring, while first grade families may need an opportunity to provide input, we should revisit the feedback we already gathered.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion of GT model and school vision.</b></p> <p>Update on new models discussed in Spring 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In May 2017, an idea for GT/Clustering in literacy was presented. For literacy, this concept was tabled. The transition in leadership, many questions about details/implementation, late in the school year → felt that there was a need for more consideration and planning.</li> <li>• Math compacting has moved ahead. It is a model that is familiar to Cory, so staff and DPS felt it was OK to implement it again. GT Department has contracted with a specialist to support Cory in Math compacting this year, meeting with teachers and GT team today. Desire to be methodical and thoughtful about implementing compacting vertically 1-5.</li> <li>• Feedback: view that literacy results at Cory are good, so “if it ain't broken don't fix it” whereas math has been declining, so perhaps time to change, try compacting. Math compacting + cluster grouping in literacy comes very close to tracking, do we want that?</li> </ul> <p>Vision for Cory, what does it mean to be an “integrated HG/GT school”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visioning discussion questions posed, e.g., Cory is good at implementing the curriculums, but what beyond that is special? Why is Cory an HG/GT magnet, and does everyone have the same answer? Why Cory and not Southmoore? why Cory and not Polaris, etc.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Important to have buy in and support of vast majority of staff on the vision and model.</li> <li>• Principal and staff are working on vision and integrated GT; however, timing is 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year to really dig in.</li> <li>• There are many options for a GT model school - can look different ways. For now, gathering ideas/background on potential models/options that will be discussed with staff. e.g., opportunities for personal inquiry; cluster grouping; passion projects; multi-age grouping and school wide enrichment, Renzulli Center at U-Conn, etc.</li> <li>• Later in year likely to propose some ideas/options to CSC and community for additional feedback, and then finalize a vision and mission for Cory.</li> <li>• Number of GT kids at Cory is down, higher bar to be identified, but also likely parents aren't choosing in where in the past they might have,</li> <li>• Difficult to expect a recently graduated new teacher to differentiate.</li> <li>• District does not have guidance on what it means to be an integrated magnet school.</li> <li>• Teachers attending annual Colorado GT</li> </ul>
<p>Decision or Recommendations:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better to have a forum when have ideas to discuss, get feedback on. Delay "fall" forum, plan for early winter and early spring, e.g January, March/April.</li> <li>• Review the visioning survey results that were gathered in Spring 2017.</li> <li>• Consider opportunity to use bond funding for innovative classrooms (item #1) to support vision.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Item #4:</b></p>	<p>Para support for classrooms and any action items re Friends of Cory fundraiser</p>
<p>Options/Points Raised:</p>	<p><b>Para support:</b> CSC question about whether the para support for classrooms is sufficient, 29 kids/larger class size. Are we ok? Principal shared that had recently filled one para vacancy - new para just started.</p> <p><b>Fundraising:</b> Friends of Cory campaign has a long way to go; typically, it picks up momentum just before it ends.</p> <p>CSC discussed ideas about how to improve fundraising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stronger school vision and more tangible needs/stories about what parents are supporting. Being able to say something other than paras and teachers, we need money for X can be very powerful. Tech/Library position for example might be a good idea. Parents want ROI.</li> <li>• Ideas to raise participatio: Having parents on the playground at drop off accept credit cards, Dough for Donuts, Kids: banners, what I love about Cory, what makes Cory special.</li> <li>• Public presentation of learning, or a demo day. In the evening parents come to class and kids show off what they have done, what they have learned. Popular at other schools.</li> </ul> <p>PTA operations:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PTA typically votes once/month, usually have discussion: budget, asks/requests, and predictions about fundraising. (PTA has to ensure has enough for end of year for teacher salaries etc.)</li> <li>• Comment that PTA's at other schools often have a strategy and spending plan where they specify how they expect to spend budget, e.g. XX% to technology; XX% to staff salary etc. then they approve requests based on this.</li> </ul> <p>Misc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• charging stations would make the chrome books utilization higher.</li> </ul>
Decision or Recommendations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the ideas on fundraising will be taken to PTA</li> <li>• Para support does not seem to be a problem, vacancies filled.</li> </ul>
<b>Agenda Item #5:</b>	Updates and any action items re Principal Search
Options/Points Raised:	Principal search process: no updates since last CSC meeting; we are waiting on timeline and process details from district. District has a system and structure for filling principal positions, Cory will follow this process. Likely when it begins it will move quickly. Parents will be involved, there will be committee.
Decision or Recommendations:	Optimally, Cory will have a chance to work more on its vision and integrated GT model (#3 above) so that can then select principal that has a similar mindset. Will be hard if school and community agree on one area and then new leader takes a different direction.
<b>Agenda Item #6:</b>	Homework policy
Options/Points Raised:	Homework Policy that was approved last year is on the website. Every teacher went over their HW policy on back to school parent night... Some minor tweaks, but overall HW should be aligned with policy that community voted on last year.
Decision or Recommendations:	Principal to revisit policy with staff to ensure general alignment.
<b>Agenda Item #7:</b>	Psychology counselor budgeting and status of this position
Options/Points Raised:	School Psych counselor: we have a 4 day a week intern. Pay for 3 days but get four. Process of filling this post is not clear.
Decision or Recommendations:	More clarity on how this post is filled etc.
<b>New Agenda Item #8:</b>	School performance framework (SPF) results
Options/Points Raised:	Cory is distinguished, 4 <sup>th</sup> in the city according to performance. Positive, great results. Long history of high performance. Dig in and look at where are areas to improve.

	<p>Growth is weighted heavily. Looks at 3 major areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academic growth</li> <li>2. Grade level</li> <li>3. Satisfaction of students and family (challenging this year because school was not allowed to intervene in any way to increase response rate).</li> </ol> <p>Results show where Cory can improve: free and reduce lunch and early literacy are biggest challenge. Cory has very few FRL.</p>
Decision or Recommendations:	<p>To share with community</p> <p>Would be good to see Cory trends over time.</p>

<b>Action Items</b>		
<b>Task to be Done</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Follow up Patricia and Ken on getting rid of obsolete curricula/coolers	Liz	
Follow up: cause of art room heating issues	Jen D	
Mindful of events on different days of the week.	All, Jen G to relay PTA	
Community Forums: in parking lot be thinking of ideas around getting feedback on visioning.	All	
Share results of last year's visioning survey	Jen D	
Develop some specific examples on how funding is spent, show parents the ROI	Jen G to relay to PTA	
Friends of Cory: be on playground soliciting parents with charge card: Donuts for dough; coffee for cash.	Jen G to relay to PTA	
Share SPF; SPF results over time	Liz	
More info on how school psyche post filled	Liz	
Share Dojo WSJ article	Jen D	
Reminder on homework policy to staff	Liz	
Future CSC meetings every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 4 PM	All	