

Topanga Elementary Charter School

Leadership Council Minutes

September 24, 2019

1:45pm

Call to Order by Elizabeth Abramowitz at 1:50 pm (Ms. Abramowitz was the facilitator, J.B. Whittenburg recorded the minutes).

Welcome & Introductions: Ms. Abramowitz read the decorum of the meeting.

Roll call: All present.

Minutes from last meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Weisberg

Seconded by Mr. Harrell

Motion approved by all

Committee Reports

Safety

Schoolwide emergency plan: flowchart for emergency, delineations of responsibilities

-coffee Oct 4 9:00 am to discuss

-garden cleanup needs volunteers

-notifying parents

Supervisor for environmental LAUSD: conducted walkthrough observing our concerns

-water tanks are not adequate, leaking, one is broken, open to tampering

-need multiple tanks in a ventilated locker

-TECS will inventory what we have, and then LAUSD will tell what they can provide

Integrated safety plan to be put on website

-ham radio training

-satellite phone

-copper line in room 14, office can give 2 day communication line via blackboard connect

Ms. Weisberg is concerned that LAUSD says that they'll pay for this thing but we should be very adamant to district that we expect them to fully fund safety for kids (not wait for grants)

-meeting before Oct 17 earthquake drill

Alisa Land Hill- parents could be asked to raise short term funds to take care of power issues

-Oct 16: office of emergency management for LA county - would like to request staff be present

-if we're in the dark, we'd like to set up an emergency notification phone tree to notify parents

Curriculum

Book tasting: successful event for the library

Art teacher: offered and now accepted, getting trained and finger printed with STAR

Box tops are now digital, need a parent (Mike Burke suggested, set it up to go direct to TEP)

VAPA lunch art continuing- maybe meeting more consistently

Reading coordinator position being revisited from last year

-\$120k, split with another school

-if there's money in place, Ms. Abramowitz will look at the budget

Music at lunch

New history curriculum and need time for training

Need for 1:1 laptop in upper grades

Science: raptor day, Xerxes native plant grant

Technology

Surveyed teachers about inventory, tech updates, chargers, upgrading memory, wishes and other needs (only 4 responses so far)

-grant: \$1800 from LAUSD, to be spent on a cart of 30 iPads

-16 more laptops needed for upper grades

-TEP funds- \$8k

-next meeting will make recommendations (inc chromebooks)

-8 chromebooks (4 touch screen and 4 non)

Ms. Abramowitz: Jeff says we need a lot of updating, chromebooks recommended, let's agree on all getting the same thing

Miria: chromebooks not best for everybody, web-based only, good for students to have exposure to multiple platforms

Fuji: money for technology is budgeted 6 months prior to now, it would be great to give wishes in April (survey will also come at end of the year)

Dr A: logging in with our network is a real issue with chromebooks, Jeff trying to improve this

Ms. Galindo: parents have promised donations before and follow through never happened

TEP

TEP reports: upcoming events and 30k only raised so far (giving overall lower than this time last year)

Science

Xerxes butterfly garden: end of October, looking into water supply > Roger suggested water tanks that we have to drain

Clean energy program

Live animal show ok - Oct 11 or 25? Will email teachers

March 18- 5th science day

Science fair - April 1 targeting

Astronomy event at TCC

Butterfly day may 31st

VAPA

Variety show (hope to raise \$3K)

-parent volunteers are ready to join in when art teacher starts

-buy variety tickets online

-potential fundraiser idea: musical event (run by parents) as a fundraiser, like Topanga Days on campus

Maker club

-inspired by Library downtown, after school generated by parents

Three after school events scheduled:

-coding:

-clothing design:

-film

-kiln as a resource (Paul and Matt Doolan offered assistance with looking at this > Lisa Davis will reach out to them)

Principal Report

Hiring for TA: reference calls were not positive

-Alisa: could we advertise with Topanga residents, ad with town council newsletter (Alisa will send)

Restorative Justice training: Ms. Kort and Dr A will attend (requested bringing parents, they have not responded, Principal will call, will ask for 2 leadership parents to attend either direct training, others can attend training here led by the trainers)

Counseling: principal went through the process with one agency got the \$\$ and everything set up BUT now district says they don't want to work with this one

-now trying to turn all of this around with the first agency that we passed on

Principal hiring: heard that people are applying, pulling from a different pool than Palisades ES

-potential training next week

Kristine Sloan: TEAL money approved > 2 day training and 2 days of subs, total of \$2400 of training but district will only cover \$1500 for training/materials > may make more sense to just send the art teacher to save \$\$

-still looking at money/debt carried over from last year, some things are still on hold for approval

Ms. Abramowitz moved to adjourn

Ms. Weisberg seconded to adjourn

Meeting adjourned

