

PRMS School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

SGC Members Present: Eva Beau, M.J. Chironna (co-chair), Joe Giandurco, Angelica Goldblatt, Ena Jain, Jill Katkocin, Ellen Knapp, Damon Lewis (co-chair), Jennifer Montanari

Team Members Absent: Dawn Greco, Laurie Hall, Amy Jeffereis, James Lynch, Jamie Matis, Joe Perella, Mayra Quispe

Next Meeting: September 2019

Review Minutes from 4/17/18 Meeting

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

Review and Finalize PRMS Student Based Budget (SBB)

The current PRMS SBB projects 707 students at Ponus for the 2018-2019 FY. Our SBB total is \$5,547,763 and there is a surplus of approximately \$276,000. We want to make sure how we use the \$276,000 benefits our students. We discussed the following options:

1. Hire a Dean of Students. We had a Dean of Students many years ago. This person would be heavily involved with all student activities before, during and after school. They would also be responsible for discipline with regards to behavior. By hiring a Dean of Students, Dr. Lewis and Ms. Katkocin would be in teachers' classrooms more and would have more time for instructional meetings.
2. Since Ponus will be a STEM PreK to 8th grade school in 2020 investing in Technology is important for the transition. Our computer class would be changed to a Tech. Education class. We would invest in Macbook Air computers, ipads and Apple TVs for all of our teachers. Apple would train Evan, our IT specialist, who will then train all teachers on these Apple products.
3. We currently have a Math coach and would like to add an ELA coach. In addition, to supporting ELA teachers, the ELA coach would work with Social Studies teachers.
4. We would also like to support our staff members who go beyond their daily jobs of teaching and support other teachers, PRMS parents etc. ie. leading STEM expo at school, leading the Hispanic Parent Group etc. We would like to allocate extra-curricular stipends for a Hispanic Parent Liaison, Math Content Specialist, ELA Specialist and five other content specialists.

With regards to keeping our third counselor, we have to reduce our specials teachers by one teacher. We want this reduction to have the least impact on our students so we looked at enrollment numbers. Our Japanese teacher is half time and currently there are only 39 students enrolled in Japanese with 10 of these students leaving for high school. We will not have a Japanese teacher next year and starting in the 2018-2019 year Ponus

students will need to go through the general lottery for CGS. In addition, we will be reducing our French teacher from full time to half-time.

Finally, we will not have a guidance secretary (per Central Office). The guidance secretary used to help with student registration and now the process is online vs. paper format. Most likely we will need guidance office hours for personal assistance. The utility clerk may be able to assist with a couple of the guidance secretary responsibilities and may move from 27.5 hours a week to a full time position.

After many questions and conversations, we reached consensus on approving all budget items except for the ELA coach. We did vote on approving the ELA coach and more than 2/3 of the present voting SGC members voted yes for the ELA coach.

SGC 2018-2019 Election

- 4 Parent Openings and 3 Teacher Openings
- Teacher and Parent Election Ballots sent via online google survey

We will recruit people for the parent and teacher openings. The election will be via email and online ballots at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. One teacher and one parent will need to lead these efforts.

Action Items

- 4/17/18 SGC Minutes were approved.
- PRMS SBB for FY2018-2019 was approved.

Other Business

- Norwalk ACTS and NPS District Wide School Wellness Committee Social and Emotional Convening – April 25, 2018

Mr. Tejada, MJ and Amy attended the Social Emotional Convening. There were community members, principals, teachers, guidance counselors, students and a couple of parents present. The CASEL framework around social emotional learning was discussed. The CASEL core competencies are: self- management, social awareness, relationship skills, responsible for decision making and self-awareness. It was very rewarding to see so many community members looking at our students' well-being from the perspective of the "whole child." It would be beneficial if we continue our Social Emotional well-being conversations next year with potentially integrating social emotional well-being into our SIP goals and action plans.

Thanks to everyone for their time and commitment to the PRMS SGC.

Prepared by: M.J. Chironna