

Foothill School Community Council Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2017

Aerwyn Whitlock conducted the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The minutes from last meeting were reviewed and approved by unanimous vote.

What's Great About Foothill?

- The main great thing discussed this time was the Exploratorium. It is going really well and they are doing amazing things there. It is changing the school experience for many children. The kids are learning so much from the hands-on experience – math, geometry, spatial reasoning, measuring, fine motor skills, project planning, etc. By having this variety of programs and activities it gives each child a chance to shine in some way.
- The Lego heads are also very popular. The kids have to read carefully and comprehend the instructions and then measure their materials to the millimeter.
- Our orchestra is also doing really well. They have made huge progress and are learning a lot.
- We are very fortunate. We have a great district that really supports the arts.

STEAM Integration Update

- The Apollo Project is moving forward. Our teachers are helping to share ideas. This summer we will have four days of integration training for all of the Apollo schools.
- Last year we received the STEM designation and we were awarded a silver level. This year we are in the process of moving to platinum status. This is really a huge designation for us.
- On March 16th we are having an engineering family night where families can come with their children and do an engineering project.

Technology Update

- At Foothill, student learning is the driver behind using technology. Technology is not the driver.
- Technology can never replace the teachers
- Shauna is amazing at making sure our maker space always has a purpose and is tied to the curriculum. She works on integrating the space with curriculum objectives so that there is a distinct reason for each activity, it isn't just doing something because it's neat.
- We need to be better at showing what we are doing with the technology that we have. We have not been communicating the amazing things the children have been learning with this technology.
- We also need to do more professional development around the technology. This professional development should be grade specific, short in time length, and practical for teachers to be able to begin to implement right away if they so choose.

Trust Land Funds

- There are now more trust land funds available. We may have \$10,000-\$15,000 more next year than this year. Right now our funds are mostly going to class size reduction and the three paraprofessionals doing the tier three interventions. The reduced class size is really helping the student learning. It allows teachers to branch out into additional teaching ideas and ensure that each student is grasping each lesson.

Other Business

- We reviewed the DIBELS scores to see if the paraprofessional interventions are working. Since September, 11 of our students have moved out of the red. Overall it is working and the kids are progressing. The greatest value that this has had is in the conversations it is starting and in driving earlier intervention than was possible before. It was asked if it would be possible to give the students in the yellow range additional support since there are not as many in the red and yellow areas anymore. That way those who just moved from red to yellow don't lose what has been working for them. We don't have a budget for that this year, but maybe we could see about doing this next year. It would also be nice to find some way to get similar data for this type of intervention for grades 4-6.
- We need to find a better way to get more volunteers in the classroom. We are having a shortage. Some parents think that they cannot volunteer because they have not been fingerprinted. The PTA will help get the word out about this and launch a campaign to get more volunteers.
- There is some concern that at some point our internet firewall was down for some time. Dr. Backman will look into this.
- Next meeting we will have a discussion about how to get the best trainings for our teachers. Is it better to get a substitute so our teachers can go observe? Are conversations with other teachers best? Would team teaching be best? We will need to come up with the best way for this to happen and the logistics of allowing the training to occur.
- Next meeting we will also discuss if there are more things or different things that we can do for the kinds in the red and yellow DIBELS categories.