

## School Site Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2011

### **Council of Council Report:**

For the 2011-2012 school year, the school calendar will revert back to a schedule similar to 2010-2011 schedule (i.e., school will resume after Labor Day in September, rather than August 15<sup>th</sup>). The mid-August start date will happen for the 2012-2013 school year. Council of Councils reports that budgetary reasons are responsible for the decision to revert to the September start date for the 2011-2012 school year. Other sources cite UTLA lobbying as the reason for the change.

Elementary schools will get new text books next year (language arts only). Teachers will be trained on new material.

Last month's lockdowns were a hoax, but the silver lining is that they have helped LAUSD become more prepared in the event of a real lockdown. LAUSD wants to provide more supplies and have police officers act as liaisons between the cafeteria, nurse, and classrooms.

### **New Business:**

#### LAUSD budget cuts:

There are rumors of RIFs for next school year, but the rumors may be a negotiating tactic. The class size for LAUSD K-3 may increase to 29:1 and the class size for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade may be 39:1. Lanai pays for extra teachers itself, so the class sizes at Lanai will not be affected as much as the class size for other LAUSD schools

#### Non-Title I School Funds:

Lanai will be receiving \$85,000 in funds next year because it is a non-Title I school

#### GATE/Gifted Testing OLSAT

There are going to be changes to the testing that occurs to classify students as gifted. Right now, teachers refer particular students to be tested, and the test is administered by a psychologist, who can label the child as gifted or highly gifted (or neither). A new system will go into effect in March, 2011, in which every 2d grade student is tested for the gifted classification. The test relies heavily on the students' ability to follow directions. The concern with the new system is that the new testing system will only determine if students are gifted, not highly gifted. To test as highly gifted, the students will need to be tested separately by a psychologist. There will be more than one opportunity for students to test as gifted or high-achieving (e.g., CSTs)

#### Bullying

Lanai has an anti-bullying policy and does not allow bullying.

## Permits

Permits may not be available next year.

## **Old Business**

### Race to Nowhere:

The film was screened for faculty and parents on January 25, 2011.

The film has prompted discussion about the value and drawbacks of homework and the role of standardized testing in our school system. Parents and teachers in attendance at SSC discussed various options for changing the homework and teaching systems, including but not limited to having homework be in a packet (given to students on Monday and due on Friday or the following Monday), putting time limits on homework (e.g., students should stop after “x” period of time regardless of whether they have finished), having parents decide for themselves how much homework they want to enforce/support at home, eliminating homework altogether, having more group/collaborative-based projects, and not having activities like chorus occur in the middle of the school day (have them occur after school instead). Some parents and teachers expressed concern/belief that homework was necessary to reinforce lessons and to cover curriculum that they might not otherwise have time to teach and/or reinforce. Other parents expressed a concern that homework was not achieving its purpose and would cause students to burn out.

### School Report Card

Excellent report card, including an API score of 940.