

Lanai Road School Site Council Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2009

Meeting called to order 2:05.

1. 5th Grade Electives- Jessica Hinckson

Jessica Hinckson is in charge of 5th Grade Electives and is also the Science teacher. This program will begin in January. The 5th grade students earned the privilege of choosing an elective class every Friday for the last hour of school. Teachers, other staff, and sometimes parents can lead an elective class. There have been classes such as Crime Scene, Cooking, Art, Theatre, Creative Writing, PE helper, Peer Mentor, etc. Students pick their top 4 elective choices and they are given one of them. Jennifer Goosenberg offered to share ideas of elective classes that they have at Westwood Charter. The classes depend on having an adult who is willing to teach the class.

2. Council of Councils Report-Suzi Kane

The Council of Councils meets 1 time per month. It is general council which draws representatives from various district schools. One issue addressed was the Public School Choice issue. Any new schools as well as underperforming schools will be part of the Public School Choice Program.

Also discussed was the LAUSD budget. They need to cut \$470 million dollars from the budget by December 15. There are currently four proposed plans to balance the budget, none of which seem like good options.

- A. Property Tax Increase
- B. Salary Cuts and 4 furlough days
- C. 1% Salary decrease
- D. 5,000-8,000 jobs lost

It is a possibility that school may start on August 31 in 2010. Another possibility is that they could combine the 8 districts into 4 districts.

3. Traffic and Safety Report-Lisa Liss

Ideally, Lisa would like to have an after school pick up program that is similar to the morning drop-off program. There are however many obstacles to that happening, including the fact that the volunteer pool at 2:40 would be much smaller due to working parents and there are so many people leaving the campus at the same time.

She is investigating alternatives like having 2-4 traffic volunteers present after school to monitor traffic and safety. Depending on how comfortable the parents are with the task, they could jot down descriptions and license plate numbers of cars that are exhibiting unsafe traffic behavior and politely let people know when they are not following traffic laws. Ideas for publicizing this information were discussed. Lisa would need to make sure volunteers would not have liability.

She is also creating a petition for LAUSD and LAPD requesting additional traffic reinforcement and police presence because of the risk at our school for accidents. She will also forward the petition to the Dept of Transportation or whichever entity can issue parking citations.

4. Room Cleanliness-Mrs. Melvin

Carpets and floors will be cleaned over winter break. The flooding issue at the bottom of the ramp, where it is taped off, will also be resolved over break. Gutters have been snaked to avoid flooding. The parking lot with the handicapped parking lot is closed off. It will be turned into an extension of the Kindergarten yard. It will have a bike corral and a mini city. We have received local district approval and the plans are moving forward.

5. Talent Show-Anita Barone

This is the 5th year of the Lanai Road Talent Show. It will be new and more structured. It will be free to participate, and subsidized by a bake sale and PTA funds. There will be tryouts, specific rehearsal times and days, and a Friday and Saturday show. Performances will be under 3 minutes and kids can only be in one act.

6. Developmental Kindergarten-Farnaz Simantob

There will be a Developmental Kindergarten pilot program all over LAUSD. Developmental Kindergarten is not Pre-K. It is an opportunity for kids with birthdays from June through November who make the age cutoff but may not be developmentally ready for traditional kindergarten. The class would be more hands-on and have a smaller class size. Students would be assessed at the end of the year to determine if they are ready to go onto 1st grade or go to traditional Kindergarten the following year. Farnaz has spearheaded the effort to make the program a reality. Now the job will be to get a pilot program at Lanai. There will be a survey to assess interest at Lanai for incoming Kindergarteners. The benefit to our school would be that there would be an extra teacher to help reduce class size and it would increase Lanai's enrollment which means more money for LAUSD. The program would not be fee based.

7. UTLA Meeting-Ellyn Kent

The union stand is No to a 12% cut. They are entering negotiations. They will accept furlough day that make the semester shorter, not ones that would require teachers to be at school and not get paid. They are also trying to find ways to increase attendance records, as funding is based on students being present in school. The Home School form was discussed for kids to make up work when they will be absent for 5 days or more.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15.

Minutes submitted by Gayle Spindler

Agenda items for next time:
Class cleaning schedule for Eliot
Home School Form