

Coffee with the Principal – 5/18/09 -- notes

BUDGET CUTS

Class Size -- K-3 has been raised to 24 to 1.

4-5 can be increased to 36 to 1

There will be no 4-5th split class next year.

Sherman Oaks Center for Enriched studies accepted more 4th graders this year, which is an advantage for Lanai, because there will be fewer kids in 4th grade here.

Currently, Lanai will be down 2 teachers next year due to budget cuts.

Has there been any talk of raising money to pay for teachers?

Yes. FOLB is working to bring back 1 teacher.

It looks like we will be able to. Lanai also got \$28,000 from the district.

Assistant Principal options:

½ time, 1/3 time, itinerant...

Mrs Melvin has spoken to Jean Brown about the necessity of having more than a ½ time principal at Lanai (we have a high percentage of students w/IEPs)

Although Mr Lowry has experience and some seniority, we will not know about the “person” until June. This position is going through a districtwide re-shuffling.

Unfortunately, FOLB cannot fund any portion of an administrative position, because it is an outside entity.

Office Position:

We may lose “1/2” a person. However, because of all the cuts to the AP position, Cortines will be reevaluating the norms for smaller schools like ours.

Cafeteria

Positions: We will go from 3 people to 2. Our cafeteria workers had a chance to take full time positions elsewhere in the district, but chose to stay at Lanai for reduced hours rather than “bump” someone else out of a job.

Lunch Debit Cards - might look at after we change to satellite cafeteria. A whole overhaul needs to be done to the lunch payment system, but for our cafeteria it has also been a space issue.

Coffee Cake – When Lanai shifts to satellite cafeteria, the coffee cake will be discontinued.

Has Lanai ever considered becoming a Charter School?

FOLB has talked about it. With the budget cuts, however, there has been talk of cutting money to the charters.

There is also an option called “I-Design,” which allows greater freedom. They have implemented it at Woodland Hills Academy, with some success. However, the principal is retiring.

Taft High School is also doing I design. It does allow the school to control its money, and more freedom in staffing, but the money Lanai gets from the district is relatively little, anyway.

Lemonade Initiative – protest against education budget cuts organized by Portola moms for the entire LAUSD parent community kicked off with a rally May 15, and has already had an effect. Mrs Melvin spoke to Marla Monheim (title), and was told the Gifted Coordinator at Portola, whose job was going to be cut, will now KEEP HER JOB. Superintendent Cortines even called the coordinator to apologize.

Awards -- Not all kids are receiving awards this year. In the upper grades, the teachers agreed to it, but for the lower grades, there was a scheduling problem and one awards day was missed this year. All will be made up in June in an "enormous" awards ceremony.

Uniforms – Parents are still divided on the issue. If we do not have a uniform policy, we need to enforce a dress code.

Chorus

Due to some behavior issues with upper grade chorus, there will be a Parent/Student contract for participants to read and sign next year.

Also, Lanai will try next year to get upper grade chorus to come afterschool. (used to be just 4th and 5th) This will let everyone be on stage all at once to rehearse.

Chickens

The chicken coop was finished this week. Now the coop is secure for the chickens and the duck.

Morning Laps program – Chandler elementary has offered a challenge. Mrs. Melvin will talk to Chandler Principal (and Lanai mom) Mrs. McIntire to work it out. (Maybe, the losing principal has to wash the winning principal's car..?)

Math

Lanai is considering hiring a intervention/math pull-out teacher to work directly with kids. She/he can help 2nd-5th graders at higher and lower performance levels.

I-Excel software program. Kids are doing well with it. Self paced computer program with Mr. Scheer.

Can you group classes according to ability?

Yes, they will be looking to do that in the upper grades. You need to consider the give and take and social interaction, to teach patience for kids at all levels. Also, kids who need extra help will be in small groups.

Student Council

Role models Looking for parents to train and volunteer to teach student council members ways to solve disputes peacefully/ play games cooperatively as part of Bullying Prevention strategy at Lanai.

Student Council will be more visible next year.

Process :

4th graders will attend an assembly and get a packet.

They will have the opportunity to run for president & vice president (give speeches), or secretary, treasurer and historian. They will make election posters – they cannot promise anything they can't deliver.

The administration will try to make sure all who put the effort in will be assigned a position, even if they have to create one.

The process starts and ends in June.

Outgoing president Cameron Bassir will tour the new president and VP around the school and explain duties.