

2016 Feb 25 - Wildwood SGC meeting.

Attending — Susan Bellak (SB), Nick Yaffe (NY), Kerry Crosby (KC), Kristin Lieber (KL), Chris Eggemeier (CE), Joya Misra (JM)

Absent – Laura Quilter.

## **UPDATES**

NY: WW has an informal partnership with Ron Berger (founder of Expeditionary Learning) to provide free consulting on expanding project-based learning. The vision from the building project incorporates project-based learning.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Fundraising Policy. KC: Concerned about clarity around fundraising policy. Would like to see more options for classes than Hillside Pizza. Concerned that some fundraisers are allowed but other fundraisers are not. Feels fundraising can be a motivator for kids, especially for summer Readathon, which may have been less engaging for kids this year without opportunity to raise funds for the library. NY: Criteria are in handbook. Nick will take steps to inform staff of these criteria in the future. SB: Suggested orientation for teachers on policy, including information for teachers that PGO funds are available and process to apply for these funds. Group agreed it would be helpful to educate teachers on fundraising policy and develop list of example acceptable activities.

## **AGENDA**

Reading was Chapter 5 of Beyond the Bake Sale. “How Will Involving Parents Help Your Test Scores.”

Clubs. The group discussed afterschool clubs as a way to engage parents and kids equitably. Ideas included: Minecraft, Science Club, graphic arts, newspaper, writing club, book club, math counts, photography/video, cooking club, knitting, Spanish club. Generally past clubs have been effective with 2 volunteers and a teacher liaison. Limiting participation to a manageable size is desirable and has been done in the past through a lottery. KC will present these ideas to the PGO and ask for suggestion from parents of do they have something to offer. KL – survey may be another way to gather ideas and skills to motivate clubs.

Welcome Wagon. SB: Welcoming new kids Kid-to-kid process well established but process to introduce new parents to WW still a challenge. Proposed continuing past efforts at new parent welcome wagon, eg “Ties that Bind”. A welcome folder was assembled previously that could be used. SB will present to PGO.

Family Survey Information. University of Chicago is offering services to district to administer a suite of surveys (staff, student, family) that will include a family survey. The surveys embody many elements of expeditionary learning and similar educational approaches that match well with the school improvement plan. U of C offers analytics, especially between their student and staff surveys. Elements of the revised survey developed by Joya and Kristin can be included in a separate family survey. KL: This

survey could be linked to gathering information for the Family Directory.

**Next Steps**

- NY will forward a list of general ideas on parental engagement to the PGO.
- Kerry will present at PGO on Monday on SGC, welcome wagon, and clubs.
- Kristin and Joya's survey revisions on hold pending new U of Chicago survey.