

**ULIS NEWTON ELEMENTARY**  
**School Organizational Team Minutes**  
**March 16, 2017**  
**3:45 p.m.**

The Ulis Newton Elementary School Organizational Team meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. on March 16, 2017. The meeting was held at Newton Elementary School Library.

**Members present:**

Mr. Barlow, Ms. Benavidez, Mr. Harper, Ms. Ficarro, Ms. Grady, Ms. Scow, Ms. DiCamillo

**Members absent:**

None

**Agenda Items**

**1.0 Welcome & Roll Call**

**2.0 Old Items**

2.1 Reading and approval of Minutes from 2/16/17 SOT Meeting

- Mr. Barlow motioned to approve the minutes from 2/16/17. Ms. Grady seconded.

2.2 Update and possible action on SOT Community Member addition

- Mr. Barlow has reached out to the Public Education Foundation, hasn't heard back.

2.3 Current Budget Update, for Information and Discussion

- We may be getting more money per pupil than expected next year, so we may have to meet and revise the budget accordingly in June.

2.4 Information and discussion of current School Performance Plan

- The School Performance Plan we submitted has been approved by Mr. Mars.

2.5 Discussion and possible action on 2017-18 Strategic budget

- The Strategic Budget has been submitted and has been approved by Mr. Mars.

**3.0 New Items**

3.1 Information and discussion on Accelerated Learning Model (ALM)

- Ms. DiCamillo reported that staff members were split on opinions in favor or against ALM, if. She reviewed the pros and cons that teachers discussed about ALM. Right now there are 15 GATE students in 3rd grade, 8 GATE students in 4th grade, and 10 GATE students in 5th grade. There is the possibility that we

could departmentalize for the subjects of reading or math if we didn't implement the full ALM model of pulling out a whole class for ALM.

- Mr. Barlow supports ALM and shared examples of his own children's success in ALM classes.
- Ms. Benavidez has had children in ALM and not in ALM. She is concerned about the ego of children who are in the ALM classes and bullying other children who are not in the program.
- Mr. Harper inquired about the guidelines of qualifying for GATE and guidelines for qualifying for the ALM program.
- Ms. DiCamillo talked about the different options we have in implementing the ALM program. Revamping the existing program is an option.
- Mr. Niemeier reviewed the CCSD ALM Program Guidelines for clarification on guidelines for ALM qualifications.

### 3.2 Discussion and possible action on parent requests for teachers

- Ms. Benavidez asked how many parent requests Newton typically receives. No one knows an exact number, but staff reported less than 50 school wide.
- Mr. Barlow wants to keep parent requests.
- Ms. DiCamillo reported that every school location she has worked at has granted parent requests.

### 3.3 Discussion and possible action on school zone variances for 2017-18

- We currently have 119 students on zone variances at Newton Elementary.
- Mr. Barlow believes with the current disruptions at Newton it would not be wise to reject zone variances of students who have been at Newton.
- Mr. Harper asked for clarification about the effects on Newton of refusing zone variances. Ms. DiCamillo stated that we could possibly lose a teacher(s) if enrollment went down.
- Ms. Benavidez would like to see zone variances continuing to be signed.
- Mr. Harper inquired about conducting interviews with families that want to have zone variances signed. Ms. DiCamillo is considering meeting with each family that requests a zone variance to determine if it will be granted.
- Ms. Grady commented that the PreK program has a document that parents must sign committing that students will attend regularly and demonstrate proper behavior. Maybe something similar could be created for
- Mr. Harper questioned if there is an appeal process if zone variances are refused. Ms. DiCamillo verified that there is an appeal process and explained the process.
- Mr. Niemeier was asked by Ms. DiCamillo to share information about zone variances. He discussed CCSD Administrative Regulation 5112 (the district procedure for zone variances.)

#### **4.0 General Discussion**

##### **4.1 Items for Future Agendas**

- Continue discussions on ALM model at Newton Elementary.
- Report of decisions made by administration about Zone Variances and Parent Request procedures

##### **4.2 Discussion and Request for Future Meeting**

- Next meeting will be April 20, 2017 at 3:45 p.m. in the Newton Elementary Library.

#### **5.0 Information**

##### **5.1 Next Meeting: Newton Elementary, School Library, 3:45 April 20th, 2017**

##### **6.1 Public Comment Period (Two (2) minutes maximum allotted)**

- Angie Bevel spoke in favor of ALM model and in favor of parent requests for teachers.
- Angelic Parrinello asked about students who should be at Newton ES who are attending other schools. She spoke in favor of ALM program.
- Leah Rivera spoke in favor of signing zone variances. She also spoke in favor of allowing parent requests for teachers. She wants high standards for all students, whatever model Newton decides to follow.
- Danielle Walters spoke in favor of signing zone variances at Newton. She is in favor of allowing parent requests for teachers.
- Crystal Smedley wants to see continued discussion on ALM model, or other model to challenge students. She is in favor of signing zone variances for students who currently attend Newton.
- Heather Bryant is in favor of Newton approving zone variances. She asked for clarification about how GATE and ALM programs work together.
- Tiffney Anderson spoke in favor of zone variances being signed at Newton. She also spoke in favor of parent requests for teachers. She spoke in favor of ALM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.