

Ulis Newton Elementary
School Organizational Team Minutes
January 17, 2018
3:45 PM

The Ulis Newton School Organizational Team meeting was called to order at 3:47pm on 01/17/18. The meeting was held in the library.

Members Present:

Jorie DiCamillo, Principal
Nathan Harper, Chair
Robin Anderson, Vice-Chair
Hope Ficarro, Member
Stefani Glines, Member
Melanie Grady, Member
Cindy Benavidez, Member
Alice Bellini, Member
Danielle Walters, Member

Members Absent:

None

1. Welcome and Roll Call

1. The minutes from the meeting dated 12/06/2017 were presented and approved. Ms. Benavidez made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Ficarro seconded it.
2. Mr. Harper mentioned that CCSD will be hiring a new superintendent and wondered if any of us would be interested in writing a letter to the school district covering the requirements and expectations that we have for our new superintendent. As a team we agreed that we would like a letter to be written. Mr. Harper agreed to write the letter.

2. Old Agenda Items

1. Transfer of Responsibilities
 - Thursday, January 11, 2018 CCSD Board of Trustees voted 6 to 1 to transfer *many* more responsibilities (and the funding) to each school. Each precinct will receive funds based on prescribed allocations. We discussed Newton's preliminary estimated allocation for the 2018-2019 school year. We also discussed the list of responsibilities that will be transferred to each school. Some of those including: assessments, athletics, staff development, English language learner testing, transportation, vehicle maintenance, technology support, trash disposal, gifted and talented education, and attendance enforcement, etc.
 - We also watched a video and reviewed the Principles of Organization, explaining the importance of working together as a team to set objectives, allocate resources, and evaluate performance.
2. Volunteer Background Check Requirements

- Ms. DiCamillo gave us an update on the fingerprinting requirements for volunteers. Newton has approximately 100 volunteers who are getting their fingerprinting completed and most of them are waiting for their pictures and badges now. Ms. Walters asked if the PTA was able to pay for any parents to be fingerprinted. Ms. DiCamillo verified that if a parent would like to volunteer and needs help with the funds than the PTA would be willing to assist with costs.
- Ms. DiCamillo asked if we could skip a few agenda items and discuss food service first. As a team we agreed to discuss food service first.

3. New Items

1. Food Service

- A representative from food service (Mr. Sergio), was present at the meeting to discuss the possibility of switching our school lunches over to individually packaged items. He encouraged us to switch to pre-packaged food because it will give the kids more time to eat, and less time spent in line receiving their food. Many of the SOT members seemed wary about changing to pre-packed food. We expressed our concerns about the food being hard to open, mushy, not warm, or not being as healthy. Mr. Sergio explained that in the past few years pre-packed food has developed and many of our concerns have been resolved over time, as they have improved their food. Mr. Harper mentioned that it would be helpful to have a trial day and see how having pre-packaged food would work within our own cafeteria. We would even like to try a trial week of the pre-packaged food so that we have a better idea of the pros and cons for our students. Mr. Sergio said that it might be a possibility and he would get back to us about having a week that we could try the pre-packaged food in our cafeteria.
- Ms. DiCamillo also asked about the pilot program where the students receive free lunch, and Mr. Sergio said he wasn't sure if it will continue through next year.

2. Middle School Rezoning

- CCSD is discussing zoning changes for middle school and high school. Currently they are considering transferring Newton's 5th grade students to Burkholder Middle School instead of Mannion Middle School. There will be a meeting to discuss these changes on January 18th at Coronado High School at 6:00 p.m.

3. Early Start Time Proposal

- As Newton has been using the Black Mountain Rec Center's Parking lot to assist with drop off and pick-up it has caused some parking issues for the Black Mountain patrons. Ms. DiCamillo has proposed that we apply to have an earlier start time for school. We discussed the ways this will affect teachers and students, but overall we decided that an earlier start time will significantly help the congestion within the Black Mountain Rec parking lot. Mr. Harper pointed out that starting school earlier would greatly impact parents and students. He suggested that maybe we could send out a survey to the parents

to get a vote and receive feedback. Ms. DiCamillo agreed and she will send out a survey to the parents.

4. Attendance Letter
 - As a team we reviewed the attendance letter written by Ms. Anderson. The letter will be sent out to all parents to encourage them to make attendance a priority. Ms. DiCamillo mentioned that we have 18 students who have missed over 15 days, and 83 students who have missed over 9 days, and it is only the middle of January! Students may be retained after being absent for 20 days. We are hopeful that we can improve attendance school-wide.
4. **General Discussion**
 1. 2017-2018 Strategic Budget Update
 - We reviewed our allocated budget and we will be gaining at least 5 new teachers next year. We will also have enough funds to hire a specialist.
 - The Budget is due on February 15th
 2. 2017-2018 School Performance Plan
 - With a possible donation from the City of Henderson we might be able to receive many more chrome books for our school. If we have more chrome books than the teachers will be able to use the ZEARN (math) curriculum to its full potential.
5. **Information**
 1. Next Meeting
 - Newton Elementary, School Library, 3:45 pm on February 7, 2018 to discuss the budget
6. **Public Comment Period**
 - Ms. DiCamillo informed us that a parent wanted us to be aware of the Save Black Mountain Meeting, regarding the rezoning of the golf course that is adjacent to the school. The meeting will be at The Black Mountain Recreation Center on February 12th, at 6 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.