

Ulis Newton Elementary
School Organizational Team Minutes
December 6, 2017
3:45 PM

The Ulis Newton School Organizational Team meeting was called to order at 3:45pm on 12/06/17. The meeting was held in the art room.

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

1.0 Welcome and Roll Call

The minutes from the meeting dated 11/01/2017 were presented and approved as presented. Ms. Ficarro made a motion to approve and Ms. Bellini seconded it.

2.0 Old Agenda Items

2.1 Discussion of Transfer of Responsibilities from CCSD

- CCSD is giving schools more flexibility by transferring more responsibility to each school; each precinct will receive funds based on prescribed allocations. At this time, CCSD only has a tentative list of considerations for the transfer of responsibilities. By January we will have a more concrete idea of our options and we will be able to make more definitive decisions in January/February.

2.2 Discussion and action on Public Comment Guidelines for SOT meetings

- As a group we reviewed the changes to the public comment guidelines. Mr. Harper explained that when someone signs up to speak in an SOT meeting, they will need to list the agenda item they wish to comment on.
- Ms. Ficarro made a motion to approve and Ms. Bellini seconded it, the change was approved.

2.3 Update on Volunteer background check requirements

- We reviewed the Fingerprinting Requirements and FAQs from CCSD.
- Ms. Dean has a grandparent volunteer program that has been affected by this new requirement. Even though these grandparents are screened every 3 months through Henderson Park and Rec, they might need to go through CCSD to get fingerprinting completed too.
- The largest hurdle with this new requirement is the cost of the fingerprinting and the amount of time it takes to receive clearance.
- We discussed that we will petition the PTA to see if they can help cover the cost of some parents/volunteers who are struggling to pay the \$60 fingerprinting fee.

3.0 New Items

3.1 Information and discussion on School Report Card

- As a group we reviewed Newton Elementary's School Rating for 2016-2017. Our school has earned a score of 41 out of 100, which puts us at a 2 star rating. The areas that are "graded"

are academic achievement, student growth, English language, closing opportunity gaps, and student engagement.

- As a result of our school report card, we will be mandated by the district to follow specific protocols to improve our “grade”. In the past they have required that we have smaller class sizes, if that is the case than we will have to hire more teachers and possibly bring in portables for more classrooms.
- Ms. DiCamillo is confident that we can improve our score next year by getting a few things in line. As a group we reviewed The Responsibilities for Newton ES 2017-2018. Ms. DiCamillo mentioned that she has this hanging in her office and refers to it when making decisions.
- Ms. Anderson asked if the teachers are supportive of the new responsibilities that have been placed upon them. Ms. Bellini stated that the teachers have always had the best interest of the students in mind, and that hasn’t changed!
- Ms. Benavidez asked if the teachers have enough time to plan and meet together. The teacher’s agreed that they have been able to make time to meet so that they can be on the same page within their grade levels.
- One other contributing factor to our low score is absenteeism. We have 70 students who are chronically absent. We need to increase attendance school-wide. Ms. Anderson mentioned that she would write a letter to parents (coming from the SOT) to help parents understand the importance of attendance.
- Ms. DiCamillo stated that we are moving forward, we will improve, and we have a plan to grow and improve.

4.0 General Discussion

4.1 17-18 Strategic Budget Update

- Ms. DiCamillo gave us an update on the budget and mentioned that without the funds from the Fun Run we would be much lower on funds. She also mentioned that if funds get too low, than we could possibly use the funds from the snack shack as a backup.
- Ms. Walters asked where the Box Tops funds go. Ms. DiCamillo mentioned that those funds go to music and our school garden.

4.2 17-18 School Performance Plan Update

- Waiting for it to be returned and approved

4.3 Discussion and Request for Future Meetings

- 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.
- At our next meeting we will have a representative from food service to talk with us about serving pre-packaged food.
- There may be an option to work with Henderson City and Recreation Department to change our start time for school. Our drop-off is in their parking lot and as a result our start time interferes with their class start times. If we could start earlier than there would be no interference with our drop-off and their classes that start at 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.

5.0 Information

5.1 Next Meeting: Newton Elementary, School Library, 3:45 pm on January 17, 2018

5.2 February’s Meeting will be February 21, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.

6.0 Public Comment Period

- No comments

Meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.