

Douglass SAC meeting January 19, 2011

Attendees: Bina Moser, Kelly McGahan, Jon Wolfer, Bill Smith, Linda Taht, Nicky Kroge, Alison Boggs, Jeanne Candler

Principal's report: Today's meeting is primarily informational - no decisions will need to be made.

Budget Updates - 3A money and spring planning

We'll be receiving about \$45,000 through 3A. It could all be converted to personnel, but we would have to spend it all by the end of the year. For 2011/12, our school budget should begin at 2009 levels (that is, we will not need to plan for the same 5% reduction that we had to plan for in '10-'11). Faculty is discussing how to use the new funds. We'd like to reserve some for next year. We'll talk about backfilling some of the things we didn't include in this year's budget when we planned for drastic reductions, things that were on our last wish list that weren't funded, new instructional materials, and perhaps some other new projects.

So far, grade level teams have discussed wish lists. Those will be shared and discussed with Leadership committee, and the full faculty will work together to develop a prioritized list. Parents expressed trust in the faculty to make spending decisions that will best serve our kids.

We have to send our plan to the district before funds will be released to the school. The district will review our plan to determine how well it fits with our school TIES goals. Jon is hoping to make decisions fairly quickly - before our next SAC meeting. He will notify SAC members about how the faculty wishes to use the funds and seek input via email.

TIES goals updates

Linda Taht and Nancy Chiu have worked together to develop the Douglass "One Book, One School" program. Picture books have been chosen and purchased for all classes - most related to bullying type topics. They've developed some activities related to each book. School-wide, teachers are reading the books to their classes and giving some related "homework" asking kids to discuss the topic at home. Assignments involve reading and writing, touch on topics related to our climate goals and will foster discussions about choices and relationships among siblings and families.

Climate committee has been working on a bully reporting system. Also, teachers are discussing the targeted topics with their classes, to gather information about "how we're doing" on those climate goal questions (My teachers like me; I haven't been called hurtful

names; Adults help if they see someone being bullied; I have not been bullied at school; I feel safe riding the bus; Other people help if they see someone being bullied). Jon has received very few bus reports lately, but discussions among classes have indicated that there are still some issues to work out.

Reading/Writing goals: We've taken polls among grade levels about which resources they're using to teach reading and writing. We may use some of the "new" money to help develop consistency among grade levels. As we continue to plan and add to our reading/writing toolboxes, we want to make sure that we're including opportunities for kids to expand their critical thinking skills as well as their standardized test taking skills.

The reading/writing committee also discussed spelling programs. They're interested in learning about other available programs that are not too open-ended and still cover all the important patterns and "rules" that kids should learn. Some classes are "test driving" some systems that Jon has acquired.

Collaboration time - 2011/12

Our staff has decided that Douglass will do collaboration time within our current school schedule. We will not do a late start/early release. We will reconfigure our staff meeting schedules in order to accommodate the required 55 minutes per week of collaboration time. Faculty was very concerned about upsetting family schedules in order to do late start/early release once a week.

Report from DAC (Kelly)

DAC wrapped up the school improvement plan review process for all schools. Subcommittees are now up and running. They include School Improvement Process Review, Communications (writing a SAC best practice manual based on new legislation and expectations), Accountable Programs (accounting for the 3A infusion of moneys) and Budget. Kelly is on the Communications committee.

Time for questions

Is there interest in hosting a Race to Nowhere movie night? Perhaps we could pair with Platt to host the movie and a discussion forum afterwards. Jon and Bina will pursue.

Next meeting - Wed, Feb 16