

Douglass SAC Meeting Notes

February 24, 2010

Welcome & Introductions

Jon Wolfer, Bill Smith, Penny Tompkins, Donna Jones, Bina Moser, Cecilee Rogers, Aileen McConnell, Lucy Repaci, Jeanne Candler, Lynn Twietmeyer, Nicky Kroge

Approval of Minutes

School Budget Update, Jon

Jon sent off our application for a national Blue Ribbon Award recently. He thanked all the faculty and parents for their involvement in writing our application. Five schools in CO were nominated. We'll hear later in the spring whether we've won an award.

The PTO board is committed to offsetting the "target 1" budget cut of \$37K, replacing the bulk of our SRA budget and leaving the personnel budget relatively untouched. This would enable us to maintain our staff as close to current levels as possible. In the second and third scenarios, PTO will not legally be able to cover all of the budget cuts, so staffing reductions will be included in target 2 and 3 budgets. Jon reminded us that the target 3 budget scenario would be "disastrous."

Central Admin is planning on target 2 cuts of 13.5% (3.6M) from ed center staff and programs (this does not include music, PE, art, etc.). Schools have not yet been informed about which level of cuts we'll face. It's possible that elementary schools will face a different level of cuts than middle and/or high schools. We won't hear until mid-May.

Unanswered questions/variables at the district level include results of bargaining with staff and possible changes to specials programs, including instrumental music.

On behalf of the staff, Jon again thanked our PTO for being so proactive and generous with funding.

Jon will present his budget scenarios to the faculty next week. He will email them to SAC members after that meeting. SAC will then discuss the budget one more time before Jon sends it to the Board.

PTO Budget Update - Aileen

PTO is working hard to make sure that they make smart decisions about how parent-donated funding is spent.

PTO continues to be supportive of using some funds for a significant long-term school improvement project, so would like to hold surplus funds aside for that. They plan to raise the \$37K budget backfill through the Jog-a-thon, "Laps for Learning." PTO is seeking corporate sponsorships and will provide opportunities for kids and parents to solicit donations from friends and family. Ideally, we'll be able to raise about \$50 per student.

Karen Herz showed the PTO budget to the faculty. They are talking about priorities in grade level teams and will discuss ideas as a full staff, then send suggestions to PTO.

Karen shared some ideas about adjusting beginning of year fees in order to cover some of the expenses on the PTO budget. Faculty will also continue to discuss areas where we can trim from the SRA and PTO budgets.

Parent Survey - Donna & Bina

Penny will send a letter to parents this week, describing our issues and PTO's involvement in the solution. Jon and PTO/SAC are hosting a Town Hall type meeting next week. They will outline the current budget situation as it pertains to Douglass and describe possibilities for solving the problem and do some Q & A.

Soon after that, parents will receive an online survey, asking for general feedback regarding communication, priorities for spending PTO fundraised dollars (as it relates to the teacher "wish list" generated earlier this year), fundraising issues, and volunteerism.

Timeline

Later this week: Penny will send a document explaining PTO fundraising situation, why we're still fundraising

March 3 (Next Wed night): community forum

March 4: Jon will present budget scenarios to faculty for discussion

March 4: Jon will email scenarios to SAC committee; parent survey will go out

March 9: survey results due

March 10: SAC reviews Jon's scenarios

March 12: submit scenarios to district

Review of TIES Goals (mid-year progress check)

Jon showed us the mid-year TIES goals. Six of the eight Transformational Strategies have been completed. The final two are in progress and are on track to be completed by the end of the year.

Adjourned at 4:30

Our next meeting time will be March 10 at 2:45pm.