

Douglass SAC Meeting Minutes

Wed, April 21 2:45 pm

Welcome & Introductions:

Present: Donna Jones, Aileen McConnell, Chaz Levenburg, Karen Herz, Bill Smith, Lynn Twietmeyer, Jeanne Candler, Jon Wolfer, Nicky Kroge

Minutes from April meeting have been approved.

2010-11 PTO Budget, Karen Herz and Jon

Karen has shared the '09-'10 PTO budget with the faculty. The faculty has identified areas where savings can be found in order to offset the budget reduction, to the tune of close to \$10,000.

Jon shared his draft of a suggested '10-'11 PTO budget resulting from discussions with faculty. It re-allocates some funds to match faculty priorities and reflects the \$10,000 reduction from this year's budget. Total budgeted expenses would be \$62,370. This does not include the extra \$17,000 that PTO has pledged to apply toward the budget reduction.

This budget suggestion includes literacy/classroom support similar to '09-'10 levels. Together with a .24 FTE conversion to lit tutor, we would be able to maintain support at about 50 hours per week. This is split among grade levels, providing each class roughly 45 minutes of lit tutor support per day, 4 days a week.

A discussion ensued regarding whether SAC should propose increased funding for literacy, based on the fact that parent and teacher surveys indicated that classroom support is a high priority.

Concerns around continuing to fund lit tutors have been the escalating costs and difficulty maintaining the level of funding. We realize that there are arguments both for and against dedicating some portion of our "surplus" funds to ongoing classroom support when it's unlikely that high levels can be sustained over the long term. We also recognize that it's important to spend some portion of the surplus to the benefit of students who currently attend Douglass and that some could be spent on long-lasting capital improvements or materials such as technology or library upgrades, and/or some could be dedicated to long-lasting educational impacts on students through classroom personnel.

The faculty will discuss current classroom support levels and identify "holes." We will develop a proposal that requests a reasonable amount of funding that can better meet the needs of our building. If PTO agrees to an increase in classroom support funding, they will determine which sources to tap. Jon will send a proposal for approval to SAC within the week which will then be presented to PTO at their next meeting on May 5.

Budget Cut Update, Jon

The district announced that we'll be at "target one" for cuts. The state has developed a budget and the district is confident that schools will be able to work with the level one target (for Douglass, that's a budget reduction of \$38,000, to be covered by a combination of belt tightening and PTO donation to our SRA account - see March SAC notes for more information). It's unknown what things will look like for '11-'12 - too many variables at this time. It seems prudent to expect that there will be budget constraints in '11-'12 that should be kept in mind as expenditures are planned.

Bond Status Update, Jon

Our bond committee will convene in September to determine needs. No actual building/upgrades would begin before Jan. '11. Jon will contact someone from the district to find out what could be "covered" in the bond. Library upgrades? Books? Technology upgrades? Information about this can help guide our conversations about possible capital upgrade projects.

Educational Goals & Future Planning, Jeanne

See budget discussion, above, as it relates to identified priorities around classroom support.

PTO Reserve Fund Research, Aileen & Donna

The bulk of this discussion will be tabled until we know more about what can be covered by the Bond upgrade. In general, SAC would like to suggest to PTO that some portion of the reserve fund be placed on hold to help cover potential '11-'12 budget cuts, some be devoted to a capital improvement project in '10-'11, and some be allocated for classroom support, with the knowledge that we can't expect to sustain high levels of personnel costs over the long term.

Adjourned at 4:20

Our next meeting time will be May 19 at 2:45pm.