

Foothill Elementary School Improvement Team (SIT)

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 09, 2010

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Foothill Library

Attendees: Julene Thom (chair), Sarah Schulte (vice-chair), Kari Santos (DAC representative), Shelley Giessing, Melisa Potes, Cara Mentzel, Suzanne Whitman

Absent: Carrie Cavanaugh, John DeRose, Lisa Kennedy, Cathy Gould, Kim Boyd, Brittany Rocheleau,

Materials provided in advance to SIT members for meeting:

- Agenda
- January minutes

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 6:00 PM, Foothill Library

Minutes

Agenda Item: Welcome/Sign-in sheet/Approve agenda

Presenter: Julene Thom

Discussion: None

Agenda Item: Discuss parent survey participation

Presenter: Sarah Schulte

Discussion: Sarah told the group that BVSD is switching this year to electronic distribution of the annual parent survey. Hopefully, this will increase parent participation in the survey, which last year at Foothill was only 38%. Sarah asked the group if anyone had additional suggestions for improving participation in the survey. Parent ideas included: having the survey available at a kiosk in the school office; emailing parents daily until they responded to the survey; give incentives to classes with the highest participation rates. SIT will consider implementing these ideas next year, depending on how the many parents participate in this year's survey.

**Agenda Item: Review Review draft
February SIP**

Presenter: Melisa Potes

Discussion: (This item was removed from the budget due to time constraints.)

**Agenda Item: Budget Update and
Parent input on budget cuts**

Presenter: Melisa Potes

Discussion: Melisa presented an overhead presentation regarding the current status of the BVSD and Foothill budget process. Melisa stated that her goal was to be transparent and ensure parent opportunity for feedback to the school and the District.

This District is facing a budget shortfall for next school year anywhere between 6%- and 12% of budget. The District has already decided to increase class sizes by one student per class across all grades for next year. In addition, the District will be tapping some of its reserves to fill some of the budget gap. The District continues to plan for additional cuts, which have not yet been determined.

At the school level, Foothill will have to cut between approximately \$45,000 and \$165,000 from its budget next year. Tonight is the beginning of an opportunity for parents to learn about the budget and brainstorm options for cutting the budget and filling in gaps.

The next step of the process is for Melisa to turn in a draft budget to the District in mid-March. This budget will include three budgets: a 2.25% budget cut, 5.25% budget cut, and 8.25% budget cut.

Parents asked questions regarding the budget: Q: Do we have the school budget? A: No, only FTE costs. Q: How can we do this if we don't have the budget? A: Most operating is in central administration. FTE is the school's primary cost. Q: Can PTO raise money to cover the shortfall? They cannot pay for licensed teachers, but can paras. Q: Could we fund-raise district wide? A: Good suggestion. Q: When will we know about next year's budget? A: Second draft budget in mid-April.

Parents split into groups to discuss different aspects of the school's budget: operations, licensed teachers, licensed support, unlicensed support. Parents were asked to review the items in the category and discuss what could be cut, what could not be cut, and options for filling in for cuts.

Results: Melisa will use this data to inform her decision regarding budget cuts. A draft version of the 2.25% Target budget cuts will be shared out at the March 9, 2010 SIT meeting from 7:00 - 7:30pm. This will be open to the community.