

## Call to order

A meeting of the Sarah Smith Elementary GO Team was held at IC Media Center on 4/10/17. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.

## Attendees

Attendees included Attendees included:

Dr. Michael Forehand

Ms. Elizabeth Cox

Dr. Sherry Riley

Ms. Jana Thomas

Ms. Chiesa Carter

Mr. Robert Sarkissian

Ms. Christina Barnette

Mr. Alfonso Champion

**Guests:** Alejandro Mendez, Susan Anderson, Elizabeth Sharpton, Jane Bockel

## Members not in attendance

Ms. Shirley Smith, Ms. Laura Troup (jury duty)

## Approval of minutes

Previous minutes were approved. Robert Sarkissian motioned to approve, Alfonso Champion seconded.

## Reports

- 1% austerity cut was restored.
- 4 options were presented to the team regarding the budget. Dr. Forehand stated he was open to other suggestions. The GO Team inquired about responses from APS regarding questions about our non-Title I status from our previous meeting. APS has not responded, but it was decided that the GO Team would continue to pursue these questions that affect the budget. In discussing the options, multiple members expressed the vital role that the parent liaison plays in communication among parents, students, and teachers. Dr.

Forehand reiterated that no positions were being cut and the options presented were based on the austerity cut that had been restored. He stated that there is a full-time Art teacher and a part-time Art teacher for next school year. He also said the Music Teacher would help with teaching typing. The team agreed that based on the Strategic Plan, a hourly Reading teacher and an hourly Math teacher is needed. The GO Team decided to pursue talks with APS regarding the allotment of funds and the funding of the parent liaison position. It was also noted that SSEF helps teachers pay for classroom supplies each year. The GO Team voted on Option #3 which restores the parent liaison to Full Time, pays for an hourly reading teacher, an hourly math teacher, and classroom supplies. Alfonso Champion motioned to vote, Robert Sarkissian seconded. Option #3 was unanimously approved.

- GO Team norms were discussed, including the length of meetings. It was decided that if members felt passionate about a topic, they could form a sub-committee and bring the decisions to the GO Team.
- Alejandro Mendez reported on the Spanish Immersion program. He said the students are very motivated and the support of teachers and parents is much appreciated. He will be working with parents twice per week to help them help their children at home with homework. He stated that kids who speak Spanish at home also struggle in Spanish classroom. He also is working on setting guidelines so that parents understand that initial difficulty and lower scores is due to students learning two languages. He also wants to organize field trip for the students. It was also mentioned that SSEF helps support the Immersion program. English language learning opportunities were discussed including monthly meetings with specific topics to help students. Next year, people will be going into communities as outreach.
- The 2016 School Climate Survey results were shared. Dr. Forehand stated that strengths and weaknesses in student culture are discussed with the Leadership Team. In referencing the school priority of “Fostering a positive, informed, and engaged student culture,” survey results were discussed. It was decided that the survey was somewhat vague in determining what we need to do to help Sarah Smith be a strong school with positive, happy students, parents, and teachers.
- This led to a discussion regarding the climate in the school. Dr. Forehand stated that the vision for the school is that all kids achieve a year or more of growth. He stated that he is here to make a difference and to achieve our vision, things may need to change. He explained that there is a culture shift as teachers have to adapt their teaching to meet students’ needs. It was discussed that there is a climate among teachers that can be uncomfortable among colleagues. We discussed different ways to help teachers feel more supported and be supportive. Ideas including collaboration, social-emotional learning workshops, team building, peer review, and self-reflection were shared to help build and maintain a strong, united faculty and staff.

## Public Comment:

## New business

## Announcements

NAAPS meeting Wednesday, April 12 at PC at 12:00.

Surveys for the GO Team would be sent out from APS.

**Next meeting:** Monday, May 8 at 3:15 in the IC Media Center.

Elizabeth Cox motioned and Jana Thomas seconded to adjourn meetings. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Jana Thomas  
Secretary

Date of approval