

Call To Order

A meeting of the Sarah Smith Elementary GO Team was called to order on a virtual Zoom call on April 12, 2021 at 3:30 pm.

Attendees

Emily Boatright

Jennifer Sand

Bejay Osby

Rebecca Blanchette

Jane Bockel

Sam Jones

Katy Barnes

Ed Juline

Is there a quorum present? Circle or highlight **Yes** or No

Action Items

Agenda – Bejay Osby motioned to approve the agenda. Katy Barnes seconded. All other members voted in favor.

Minutes from March 8th Meeting – Bejay Osby motioned to approve the minutes. Ed Juline seconded the motion. All other members voted in favor.

Discussion Items

School-Based Solution: Foreign language exploration has come up in the past.

Suggestion is to change our French language program to Spanish. Several benefits to this. Rebecca, Katy and Jen have been working on a document to send to the community. Both of our beloved French teachers are retiring at the end of this year so now would be a good time to switch if that is of interest. Bejay believes the Spanish language is more valuable to our community and our children specifically. We could also empower a peer teaching model between DLI and Spanish, as a kind of bridge between the DLI program and the rest of the school.

Rebecca: in order to roll French out and roll Spanish up, we would only teach French for grades 3-5 beginning next year. Ed asked why would we phase out versus just a hard change? Emily knows 2 other schools in our cluster who have done this successfully, and they have phased it out vs doing an abrupt change. It is also challenging to hire for DLI, and having more Spanish teachers would help with that. Emily thinks there are benefits to both languages, she is not advocating it one way or the other. We are trying to determine what the best long term strategy for our school and community will be.

Process for school based solutions involves a 20 day public comment period organized by the GoTeam. That will be our next step. We would have a brief survey precluded by all of our due diligence outlining why this would be a good idea for us.

If we want to move on this, we will need one more meeting before the end of the school year to vote on it. We will get this survey done and out in the next few days so that the 20 day period can start, and then we can vote on it at a final meeting on May 17th.

Pending the vote, Tommy Usher will need to approve this process for us.

Information Items

Principal's Report: Big announcements were made prior to Spring Break. We will be 5 days in person next year. Social distancing guidelines are going from 6ft to 3 ft in the classrooms. Masks will still be required. We didn't go to 3 ft this year because if someone in the classroom had to quarantine, the rest of the students will have had to as well with the 3 ft rule. Virtual option will be AVA or AVA Jr. Everyone will be opted into in-person, but if you would like to stay virtual you can select that option. We've had a really good return - to date we've only had a handful of students test positive. All of our teachers and specialists have gone above and beyond. (What percentage of our students have opted into testing? We test just under 300 teachers and students a week.) Testing has allowed us to identify and isolate to keep spread down.

This summer there will be academic recovery. This is available to all students, SRS will be with E Rivers and it will take place at E Rivers.

Phasing STAR out. We are not sure what will be replacing it yet, but if it is what Emily thinks, the data will be stronger and more robust.

We just found out that we were approved for a Pre-K for next year. Will we include them in K Round up or will we have a separate event for them? We are still trying to figure that out. The Pre-K not we are getting is from Burgess Peterson, and it may come with a teacher but we are not sure yet.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Bejay Osby motioned to adjourn the meeting. **Sam Jones** seconded. The entire **GO Team** was in agreement. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.