

## Call to order

A meeting of the Mary Lin ES GO Team was held at Mary Lin media center on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6p.m. Meeting was called to order at 6:10p.m. by Colin Heydt.

## Attendees

Attendees were Galit Levitin, Colin Heydt, Stephanie Shumacher, Leda Everett, Sharyn Briscoe, Melanie Levs (acting as secretary, as Emily Fuller is on maternity leave).

## Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance were Victor Hicks, Emily Fuller, Karin Dusenberry, Kimberly Dick.

## Approval of minutes

Minutes from the November 2016 meeting were read by acting secretary and approved.

## New Business

Our main order of business was formally voting to approve the strategic plan.

### Discussion

Galit reiterated her suggestion to have grade-level, teacher-led meetings between teachers and parents to keep both parties updated on curriculum issues (such as the “new” way math is taught in higher grades), discuss any issues and communicate concerns. One of those meetings would be Curriculum Night, and Colin agreed these grade-level meetings could be a good idea with which to experiment. This idea of possible quarterly meetings was included in strategies for school culture.

Among the feedback on the strategic plan draft was being more specific about our strategy to “maximize instructional time.” It was amended to expand that with the following examples: bell-to-bell teaching, limiting distractions in the classrooms (such as children being taken out of the classroom, limiting intercom announcements, keeping birthday and other celebrations to lunch and recess time).

Also expanded upon, the strategy to “increase rigor in math.” This will now include specifics, such as increasing challenging, differentiated learning, and more conceptual teaching. To integrate writing throughout the curriculum (also a current school strategy) the example was added, “e.g. science and math journals.”

Other questions raised by parents about the strategic plan draft was how much we would compare

best practices with peer schools. Sharyn reminded the group that the principals meet regularly and are in constant communication. She said Lin (and the other schools) must “measure ourselves against our best selves, our own growth” rather than comparing ourselves to others. It was agreed that Lin should aim to stay between a 96 and 100 on our CCRPI scores, keeping track of the school’s growth. All also agreed with the assessment that Lin should focus on what we know and have control and support for, as far as ways to measure our school’s performance (see below in “unfinished business”).

Changes were made, as posted above, in the strategic plan draft. A motion was made by Stephanie to approve the strategic plan with the amendments. Leda and Galit seconded the motion, and the strategic plan was approved unanimously.

### Unfinished business

How do we measure progress in social studies and science? This is an ongoing issue, as there is currently no data on these subjects, partly because the GA Milestones test has eliminated science and social studies from third and fourth grades. The GO Team will revisit this question in the future.

Sharyn also brought up that at a recent principals meeting, the principals were discussing whether to return to using CAAS testing, and she asked the GO Team its opinion. If one school decides to do this, all of the elementary schools will as well. GO Team members mentioned that they would investigate for themselves the CAAS and STAR test systems and discuss next time.

A parent also asked a GO Team member to relay that the parent wanted some discussion among the staff and teachers about how best to utilize time in the classroom for kids not in GATE on days where many students attend GATE.

Melanie volunteered to serve as secretary for this month in Emily’s absence due to recently giving birth, and the GO Team will keep track of when Emily is ready to return to her duties.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Announcements

No announcements.

Motion to adjourn was made by Galit. Melanie seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm

Melanie Levs Secretary
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Date of approval
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