

Bacich Site Council Meeting Notes
Date: 2 March 2020

Agenda

- 1) SC Norms - Amy Bornstein
- 2) Approve Minutes from November Meeting - Amy Bornstein
- 3) Wellness Update - Holly Myers
- 4) KSD Superintendent Search/KSD Budget Cuts - Heather McPhail Sridharan
- 5) Special Education/Resource Lab - Virginia Harrington
- 6) Homework Club/Great Schools - Amber Hatfield
- 7) Site Council Election 2020 - Sally Peck

Attendees

Amy Bornstein, Parent, Co-Chair
Sally Peck, Principle, Co-Chair
Holly Myers, Parent
Methinee Bozeman, VP
Marty Ross, Teacher
Katie Stern, Teacher
Ilene Braff, Teacher
Elizabeth Petersen, Teacher
Katy Colwell, Teacher
Farah Maisonneuve, Teacher
Christina Chan, Parent
Eric Schafer, Parent
Estelle Dick, Parent
Lissette Fernandez-Hilson, Parent, Secretary

Notes

1) Norms Read

2) Minutes from November Approved

3) Wellness Update - Holly Meyers

Liz is in contract with the Office of Education having weekly meetings on the CoronaVirus.
If 1 child or 1 teacher tests positive, the County Health Department will decide what immediate action should be taken - Likely school would close for 2 weeks. Counties are dealing with this differently.
What's more concerning right now is stress level for kids.
We encourage you to practice mindfulness with your children to help alleviate stress surrounding the virus with your children. Also, we are trying to increase mindfulness practice in the classrooms.
This has also promoted the idea of having a "Wellness Week" next year (with everything from experts on yoga to mindfulness) more to come as that materializes.

4) KSD Superintendent Search/KSD Budget Cuts - Heather McPhail Sridharan

Efforts continue in working with a search/placement first for our new Superintendent.
We are a high expectation district and one of the main needs heard from parents and teachers was for the SI to be able to work cross-functionally with all groups within our district.
The majority of the feedback that came was from the online survey with 189 responses.
The role has been posted and people have been submitting applications online. The deadline for all applications is in April. 2 full days of interviews will be conducted for candidates. By May, there will be an approval of a new SI and the new SI will start in July.
On a side note: There are over 30 applicants for Bacich principal position. Interviews start next week and by the end of March/beginning of April, we should have a new Bacich principal.

5) Special Education/Resource Lab - Virginia Harrington

Virginia is a Director of Student Services which is a full-time role with the Kentfield School District. She's been with KSD for 8 years. Below is a summary about the services that Special Needs students in our district receive:
A) The student success team process (Grade level consultations, pre-referral intervention teams, student success teams)
B) Interventions (reading, mathematics, socio-emotional, and other interventions that are student-specific)
C) Assessment for special education (must have written consent throughout the process, seek out and find obligation, eligibility, 1 year goals, services are build around the goals, accommodations and other supports)
D) Special education services for. 153 kids in KSD : Jennifer Shelly and Erin Early (academic instruction), Erika Salazar (speech), Julianne Russell (occupational therapy), transportation, Tina Perdices and Catherine Teller (counseling), Sara Doherty-Baggs (Behavior) and various other paraprofessionals
E) Placements - Learning Center, Learning Center Plus, MCOE Specialized, therapeutic, speech only, preschool and non-public-school
F) Parent Partners support our children and families by providing input to schools, building awareness and encouraging acceptance of our children within our community. One of the programs that the Parent Partners suggested is the 4th grade Touch of Understanding program.

Questions: How does our district differ from the others in Marin? Do we do more or less?

Answer: The number of services we provide is on par with others in our district, but I believe our quality is better. This is the best team I've ever worked with.

Q: With the cost for next year, will these services be impacted?

A: Virginia's role is now .8 and the assistant principal's role. But we haven't cut any of our teachers or aid for special education program so none of the programs or services to students should be impacted.

6) Homework Club and Great Schools Rating - Amber Hatfield

There are 54 English learners and 27 reclassified English language learners at Bacich.

"Being Bilingual is Our Superpower" is our theme.

Below is a summary of the program:

- A) Goal: Ensure that English learners acquire full proficiency in English as soon as possible and close the language gap
- B) Our ELD Program: We employ Clark Consulting strategies, pull student from the classroom for 30 minutes at a time, uphold ELD standards, welcome newcomers.
- C) We have a parent group: District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC)
- D) Reclassification Ceremony to celebrate our students who become proficient on May 28th in the evening. All are welcome to attend!

A note about Great Schools:

Some of you may have noticed that Bacich was ranked at an 8 but is now ranked at a 6 on the Great Schools website. We scored 8 in Testing but 2 in Equity which is why we dropped our rating in Great Schools. Here's a summary of why this occurred and how Great Schools determines ratings:

Historically, ratings were only done on test scores. Now, scores include "equity review" which measures criteria amongst our minority population. We scored poorly in Equity in 2015 and 2016 (which is the data that Great Schools is currently using for its assessment). Equity is measured in 3 ways by Great Schools: 1) Chronic Absenteeism, 2) Suspensions and 3) Achievements.

Chronic Absenteeism is defined as 15 days or more per student. In 2015-2016, African American population was 50%, Hispanic population was 12%. In 2018-2019, African American population was 30% and Hispanic population was 6%. Incidentally, we also have a high amount of absenteeism amongst our general population, not based on sickness, but based on "unexcused" absences.

Suspension: In 2015-2016, we had 1 Hispanic child that was suspended 4 times. We found a school to better serve his needs.

Finally, how are we closing the Achievement Gap? Increasing Parent Involvement (data proves, the more parents are involved, the better the children do), DELAC, ELAC, Communication in Home Language, Reclassification Ceremony, Teacher Trainings and our Homework Club.

California Dashboard is a more accurate source of data on how students are doing vs Great Schools. We encourage you to look at this data moving forward as it is always current.

7) Site Council Election's Coming Soon - Sally Pec

Recruiting for 3 positions next year. We will discuss this more at our next meeting. Idea: Let's have someone from DELAC attend Site Council next year.