

**Bacich Elementary Site Council
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2017**

Attendees

Katie Ward, Assistant Principal, Acting Co-chair
Kathryn Supinski, parent, Co-chair
Victoria Denson, teacher
Isabella Fanning, teacher
Brittnee Gonzalez, teacher
Jen Wallen, teacher
Marty Ross, teacher
Davina Goldwasser, parent
Christina Chan, parent
Kari Canon, parent
Alisa Rubel, parent
Lauren Vaughn, parent
Michael Bessonette, teacher, project based learning specialist
Sarah Killingsworth, parent, Parcel Tax Measure Campaign Chair

Approval of Minutes

Committee formally approved the minutes of the Site Council meeting held on November 6, 2017.

Elect Secretary

Christina Chan was elected as Secretary and unanimously approved by present members of the Site Council.

Update from Michael Bessonette on Project Based Learning

Mr. Bessonette provided an update on project based learning which has been going well. Mr. Bessonette shared a short description, by grade level, of how each grade has been incorporating a curriculum into the various subjects in the classroom. For example, 4th graders are studying the California Missions and have been requested to identify a location for the 22nd mission which involves studying geography, and identifying needs such as water ways to facilitate trade & local population to convert.

Bacich Fence Project - At the beginning of the school year, Ms. Peck requested Mr. Bessonette to plan a project that would involve all grade levels at Bacich. After much planning, the idea of a Bacich Fence Project has begun. The Bacich Fence Project was inspired by the Urban Art Trail in San Diego and involves creating artwork for display on the school fence on Sir Francis Drake. Mr. Bessonette presented the Council with a slide show of pictures from other schools with decorated fences. The project will incorporate all grade levels and will be inspired by local themes. For example, theme for K will be butterflies, theme for 1st grade will be marsh birds, theme for 3rd grades will be Mt. Tamalpais or other Marin landmarks, and 4th grade will focus on symbols of California.

Mr. Bessonette noted that there is currently a collection for bottle caps and lids to facilitate the upcycling aspect of this project. Ms. Ward suggested further promoting this collection by adding it to the school billboard or placing a laminated sign in the parking lot.

Ms. Supinski asked what type of training has been provided to teachers regarding Project Based Learning. Mr. Bessonette noted that there are training courses provided by the Buck Institute, PBL World in Napa, and the Marin County of Education. Last year, two thirds of the staff attended the training course at the Buck Institute. The challenge is that these courses take place over several days making it difficult for teachers to be away from the classroom. Ms. Ward added that the school is very supportive of project based learning and have been

soliciting feedback and incorporating these themes in the upcoming construction, such as new classroom configurations.

Construction Update from Katie Ward

Ms. Ward reported that there is an upcoming need to find temporary classroom space for the six classrooms and ancillary spaces in the round building at Bacich which is slated for demolition in June, 2018. [Nine options](#) were presented to the Board at the November 14th meeting. There will be another update at the next Board meeting scheduled for next Tuesday where the Superintendent will provide a recommendation to the Board.

Ms. Rubel inform the Council that the date of the board meeting coincided with the first day of Hanukkah. Ms. Rubel asked about the timeline of the construction project and when a final decision may be made. Ms. Ward responded that the Superintendent's preference is for a decision to be made in the first quarter of 2018 so that various constituents will have time to prepare for these changes. Ms. Rubel also asked if there was a possibility to request a waiver for the TK program. Ms. Ward responded that after consultation with Legal Counsel, eliminating TK is not an option.

Ms. Supinski asked about the change in scope from the original construction plan. Ms. Ward responded that the reduction to the scope is due to lower level of enrollment than originally anticipated from earlier studies. Ms. Rubel noted that this trend is consistent with other nearby school districts.

Sarah Killingsworth – Presentation on Parcel Tax Measure

Ms. Killingsworth introduce herself to the Council and is co-chair, along with her husband, of the campaign to pass the parcel tax measure. The parcel tax measure will be on the March 6, 2018 ballot. The plan is to request voters to approve a 10-year renewal of our current parcel tax with an increase of \$355/year with all applicable exemptions and a 3% annual escalator. Ms. Killingsworth noted that the increase of \$355/year does not increase funding to the school but is to make up a shortfall due to the elimination of a two tier system where commercial properties contributed more to the parcel tax. There were questions over how escalator was determined and Ms. Killingsworth shared data of other district's escalators noting that this information was used by the research firm to determine what would likely be acceptable to voters in our District.

Ms. Killingsworth noted that there is a public misunderstanding of the parcel tax measure which is different from Measure D. Funds for Measure D can only be applied towards construction costs while funds from the parcel tax measure is used to fund operating costs. The Parcel Tax Measure is not a new tax but a renewal of an existing tax measure set to expire. Currently, the funding from the measure represents over \$4.5 million of the school's operating budget which allows for various programs at the school as well as smaller class size. The measure will require two thirds of voters to vote approve which is expected based on current polling research, but not by a huge margin.

Ms. Rubel asked if teachers can be involved with the campaign. Ms. Killingsworth and Ms. Ward confirmed that teachers can participate in the campaign as individual but not in their capacity as a teacher or district representatives.

For further questions, Ms. Killingsworth can be reached at 415-924-7171, ext. 11, or by skillingsworth@simborg-killingsworth.com.

Committee Reports/Updates

There were no committee reports or updates this month.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2018, 3pm, Bacich Library