

Edison Elementary
CSC Meeting – January 6, 2010 Minutes

CSC Members in Attendance: Sally Whitelock, Nadine Ritchotte, Leighann McSherry, Andy Shrant, Amy Okimoto, Lesley Turner, Tina Martinez, Kristie Shevin, Mary Klute

Also in attendance: Lisa Hann (ECE teacher), Jessica Mason (ECE teacher), Suzanne Leff (parent), Jeanna Grasso (parent)

Approval of December Minutes: Approved with no changes

Classroom space for 2011-12 school year

- Edison is currently at 105% capacity, therefore there is no extra classroom space
- We have 4 classes of 2nd that need to move into 4 classes of third, but currently we only have 3 3rd grade classes
- SLT had a discussion about how to solve this problem with the following recommendation
 - Cut ½ ECE and Kinder, go to 4 full day kinders. Rationale: ½ day kinder financially drains the school. Cap at 19-20 full day kinder. No higher than 25 with ½ day kids in the morning. Helps with budget issues. There will be budget cuts, district wide.
 - Move the music room and then have 2 teachers (K, 1st or 2nd) co-teach in the very large music room, which will open one classroom for the new 3rd grade
 - Additional movement of teachers to support teacher collaboration/flooding/intervention
- Question asked? Tuition or scholarship pays for ½ teacher, 3 hour para, and some supplies. Other half of kinder paid through general funds.
- Discussion: 2 ECEs or 4 kinders. Kinder means half goes to general funds. Nothing to general funds from ECE. Don't want to turn away kinder students.
- After much discussion: Music room to be split into two classes; co-teaching. Primary, not multi-grade, not HGT. Decision who will share space is not yet made. Music will need to move as will ESL and interventions upstairs. One to Ms. Wing's room; one to Mr. Hudnall's room. Two second grade teachers will move as will Mr. Hudnall.
- Question remaining: One full day ECE and one half day ECE? Currently we have one full day and one half day ECE. If we lose an ECE, half day would serve 40 students. Full day would serve 20 students. Sally has approached Early Childhood Dept. They are frustrated that we need to do this.
- Next year, 4 classrooms at K, 1, 2, 3. In 2013, we would need to cut K back to three classes to keep the "bubble" so that we don't need another classroom.
- District has said that a modular is unlikely because of choice. ECE has modulares, Sally will send email to see if they would be willing to give us a modular.
- Question: What will that do for future budgets-will it affect to lose a kinder tuition based. Answer-no. Numbers of students does not change, but number of students in grade level will change.

- Question: What does this mean for #s in kinder? See above.
- We will not have to turn away as many full-day kinder students any more.
- Question: How will ½ day kinder affect how kinder kids learn (stuffing curriculum in the morning and enrichment in the afternoon)? LeighAnn explained that this is not the perfect situation, but due to budget and space, it will have to work. She explained that full day kids would still get the same amount of info, we just may have to break up time so that half day students will not receive the extra reading, math, etc. in the afternoon that the other kids receive.
- We will encourage all kinder kids to go to full day, even if they start as a half day student, if we have space.
- Drain comes not from ½ programming, but because we can't fill the class. Will not affect para time, actually will make ½ of para paid for.
- 53% of kids choice into Edison, 46% of neighborhood kids choice out of Edison. This is why district will not necessarily give us a modular.
- Question: If ECE went two ½ days would it be one teacher or two? School based decision.
- Pointed out that ECE students use specials, lunchroom coverage, etc., but ECE puts no money into the budget.
- Pointed out that ECE paras do help financially, in that they help cover lunchroom, playground, etc.
- Disadvantages to losing ECE-good educationally for kids to have the opportunity to attend ECE. Also, it's a community draw to have ECE.
- Two half day ECEs would still serve the same amount of kids, just would eliminate the full day option.
- Do we need to make the decision now to cut ½ day ECE? Thoughts: How do we serve the most kids? Half day would do this. What about working families? ½ day would be a struggle for working families. Would it be possible to set up partnership with licensed daycare?
- Vote: Co-teaching for two primary classrooms? Do teachers have a real definition of co-teaching? Is this what is best for children?
- Vote: Do we agree to cut ½ day kinder, ½ day ECE? Yes.
- Vote: Tell parents that we are unsure that we will be two ½ days or one full day? Ask people to sign up for their first preference? Do we make this decision today?
- Question: Could ½ day and full day share a room? Sally will email Early Childhood tomorrow to ask about modular and if there is enough space to have both classes share a room? Will this affect Qualistar rating? Could we have a two kinders share big current ECE room and move ECE to two smaller rooms?
- Question: Do we really want to be at that high of a capacity? Even though classroom space is available, many kids for this space. Is that is what's best for kids?
- Summarize choices
 - #1 Eliminate ½ day ECE, Kinder, three full day kinders..use room for third grade
 - #2 four kinders, co-teaching primary classroom,
 - #3 to keep ½ ECE is to share the other ECE room

- Question: RIBing teachers or just moving? Answer: We would need to RIB. Do we want to RIB two teachers this year or multiple teachers in the future?
- Question: To continue at/above capacity or to see about operating below capacity? Issue: Not operating at capacity does not make Edison attractive to prospective families.
- Question: Why not an HGT one/two split? Does this perpetuate our issues b/w HGT/Traditional classrooms? Yes.
- Question: Could Stevie Townsend/Lauren Stewart help facilitate co-teaching?
- Would kinder be the best bet for co-teaching because of the nature of the learning that kinder students do? Pre-existing collaborative relationships. Not as much need for tables and chairs.
- **APPROVED Move to one ECE, four kinders, 1s, 2s and 3s. Talk to Early Childhood about a modular to keep ½ day ECE and alternative ECE/Sped program. Know that we will have to cut one kinder next year. Not accept choice students if it makes classroom size too high. We will accept choice to maintain kinder, but limit choice in older grades to keep classroom sizes okay. ECE choice-parents will have to be informed and will have to pick their first choice ½ or full day.**

Staffing and budget priorities for 2011-12 school year: **APPROVED**

- Budget draft turnaround comes quick
- SLT did priority processing to determine budget draft.
- (See SLT notes)
- Fund people first and funding accounts second because of PTA and fundraising to support textbooks, library books, technology, PD
- Questions about facilitator and interventionists...needed to help our struggling readers/math close the gap. Facilitator duties include working with new teachers, data teams, collaborative planning, etc.
- Can we move staff around to avoid RIBs?

Approval of February 22 Parent-Teacher conferences: **APPROVED**

- Teacher work day move to 12:00-8:00
- Conferences only as needed (some kinder parental concern).

Presentation of information from Suzanne Leff

- Suzanne shared that she has submitted the final version of the Classroom Placement Procedure to Sally
- Superintendents Parent Forum: At the last meeting, the group discussed budget, using similar cards that Sally used today (what is required, prioritizing the budget). From that, Suzanne suggested letting parents know as soon as possible to budget cuts that we are projecting for next year.
- Northwest Community Committee-Committee of 67 individuals, 28 different schools, and community interests. Four principals are participating (North, Skinner, elementary and charter). BOE authorized this committee to meet and discuss: School feeder patterns, program offerings,

future options at North, school capacity, needs for new schools and needs for ELA and SpEd students. The district has given the committee a year to collect info and bring it back to the BOE. District is committed to not opening any new schools until this committee does it's work. Suzanne is impressed with commitments made by district and Mr. Boasberg, BOE and members of the committee. The focus is on creating good options for NW students after primary. There are open meetings the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is January 12th at 5:30 at Trevista. www.nwdenverschools.org is the website to see the work that the committee is doing. The work is not completely decided at this point as the committee will be making those decisions as a whole. Teachers are not a critical mass on this committee. If any teacher here would like to get involved, please attend the open meetings. Some committees are still looking for members.

- Suzanne asked for questions or things to take back to Mr. Boasberg. Money was mentioned. Suzanne stated that Mr. Boasberg stated that he would like to find more funding for ECE and will request a new mill levy within the next couple of years.
- Question: Any news about high stakes testing? Nothing has been said as of yet.

Other agenda items: None

Next meeting: Thursday, February 3 at 4:30

Please watch for emails regarding scheduling of an additional CSC budget meeting