

**Edison Elementary School
Collaborative School Committee
August 26, 2009**

Call to Order: 5:10 p.m.

Members Present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Ann Christy, Principal; Susan Hennessey, Parent; Suzanne Leff, Chair and Parent; Tina Martinez, Parent; Larry Nelson, Assistant Principal; Carol Reed, Teacher; Joanne Stroud, Teacher; Lesley Turner, Teacher.

Guests Present: None

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the minutes from the June 2009 Regular Meeting without changes.

- II. **Personnel Updates**

- A. **2nd Grade:** Dr. Christy reported that Beth Lindauer (formerly Roberts) was reassigned to 2nd Grade from 3rd Grade due to the increased numbers of 2nd Graders who registered at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year. In addition, the 2nd Grade/3rd Grade split which would have been taught by Elizabeth Mathews was eliminated and Ms. Mathews returned to teaching 3rd Grade. As a result, the 2nd Grade Team now includes Kelly Krank, Beth Lindauer, Carol Reed, and Lala Wing while the 3rd Grade team includes Floyd Baltz, Elizabeth Mathews, and Kate Rommelman. The 2nd and 3rd Grade teachers agreed the smaller class sizes in 2nd Grade would insure that students would arrive in 3rd Grade prepared to improve skills needed to be successful when taking CSAP.

Due to the staffing challenges presented by changing student numbers between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next, Dr. Christy suggested that the practice of notifying students of their Fall teacher assignment at the end of the school year be reevaluated.

- B. **Art Teacher**

Dr. Christy reported that a total of \$37,000 was raised by the Save Art for Edison effort. These funds were transferred from Friends of Edison (FRED) to Denver Public Schools (DPS) and will be administered as a grant under DPS procedures.

- i. **Options:** Four options were presented for the expenditure of these funds.

- Option 1:** Art Teacher (.5 FTE and Licensed)

The cost of a .5 FTE Art Teacher would total \$35,000. (It is worth noting that the cost of benefits was higher since the rate was calculated using a grant rate rather than a regular contract teacher rate.) Dr. Christy indicated that teachers

support this option because it would allow for all teachers at each grade level to have their planning time together and added that consistency in planning time is needed in order to effectively implement the curriculum and raise test scores.

Option 2: Artists in Residence (Art Experts from the Community)

Dr. Christy reported that teachers do not support this option because it will not allow for grade-level planning. The District requires that a licensed teacher must be present to supervise students; therefore, teachers would have to attend Art with their class.

Tina Martinez suggested that substitute teachers could be used to meet the licensed teacher requirement. However, Dr. Christy and Mr. Nelson indicated that the cost for substitute teachers could exceed the cost of the pay for Artists in Residence and the delivery of Art services would be adversely impacted.

Option 3: Art Teacher (Licensed FTE Art Teacher for .5 School Year)

Option 3 evolved out of the discussion related to the first two options. Dr. Christy informed the Committee that an Art Teacher could be hired for .5 School Year which would then allow for a one time schedule adjustment in the 2nd Semester.

Option 4: Art Teacher (Licensed Long-Term Substitute)

Option 4 also evolved out of the discussion of the first two options. Mr. Nelson suggested that a Long-Term Substitute could be used given the temporary funding associated with the position.

- ii. **Plan/Next Steps:** After the options were discussed, the Committee decided that the cost of a .5 FTE Art Teacher was greater than expected and as a result, CSC will look at a variety of ways to insure students are getting Art. In order to make the best decision, more information is needed. Therefore, Dr. Christy agreed to communicate with DPS to get answers for the following questions: 1) What would the cost be for hiring an FTE Art Teacher for only half of the school year?, and, 2) What would the cost be for hiring a Long-Term Substitute for the position? Other options including identifying parent volunteers to assist teachers in bringing Art into their classrooms and including Art-centered activities in Enrichment Days will also be investigated.

In addition, Suzanne Leff, the Chair, asked Dr. Christy and Larry Nelson to draft a letter to go out in Thursday Folders on September 3, 2009 that would

detail the options and the decision-making process related to the use of these funds. The letter would also be distributed to businesses and other community organizations that donated to the effort.

III. **Data Review**

A. DRA2: The DRA2 scores from Fall testing for the 2009-2010 school year will be available on-line in OASIS on September 21, 2009 after testing is completed on September 8, 2009.

B. CSAP: During the summer, a working committee reviewed CSAP scores and will continue to work on this section.

IV. **School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

A. Academic Goals: Dr. Christy reported that work continues to insure objectives are measurable. The Library and Technology Plan will be funded through grant funds from the University of Denver; three Promethean Boards will be installed in Intermediate classrooms (one in 4th grade and two in 5th grade). This Plan will be forwarded to CSC members electronically.

Dr. Christy also reported that Edison had achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as measured by the District's Benchmark Assessments for all groups, including African-Americans, Hispanic, White, and Special Education students, except the category of students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). The percentage of FRL students meeting AYP at Edison increased this year, but a larger State-wide increase meant that Edison did not meet the State goal.

B. Parent Engagement and School Culture Goals: Ms. Martinez reported that the following goal had been developed for inclusion in the SIP and is linked to AYP for the school:

95% of Edison's parents and families will engage in at least three activities designed to improve school-wide student achievement.

Overall, the section will focus on volunteer opportunities for parents and families and protocols for parents and families to use when they have concerns or questions. Ms. Leff and Ms. Martinez indicated that they would continue to work on this section and develop a timeline for activities, as well. To facilitate the involvement of families who speak Spanish, Dr. Christy agreed to contact DPS to find out how to include a translation software link on the Edison website.

C. Professional Development

- i. Calendar:** Dr. Christy indicated that the Professional Development Calendar, developed by Joanne Stroud, CSC member and UCD Site Coordinator, and Lauren Berdofe-Stewart, Humanities Facilitator, has been completed and is ready to be attached to the SIP.

- ii. **Infinite Campus Pilot:** Dr. Christy shared her concerns about this initiative with the Committee; time spent by teachers implementing the online grade book could take away from time that could be used to improve instruction. Rather than focusing effort on this, the Committee requested that Ms. Stroud develop a guide for parents to use during Parent-Teacher Conferences. This guide would include questions parents should ask teachers to more fully understand their child's progress.

D. Time Frame and Action Steps for Completion: Dr. Christy stated she will present information about the due date for the SIP at the next CSC meeting.

- V. **CSC Member Election:** Two Parent Positions will open up this year; a letter asking for nominations will be sent out in Thursday Folders on September 3, 2009. One community position will open up and nominations for this position will be sought from the community at-large. No Teacher Positions will open up this year given that the current Teacher Members are only in the first year of a two-year term.

The Committee agreed unanimously to set a time for future meetings after new members are seated following the election.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.