

Total members present: 7
Quorum (50% + 1): yes

El Puente School Site Council Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022 (Virtual - Google Meet) 2:15 p.m.

1.0 Call to Order

The virtual meeting was called to order by William Wagener at 2:17 PM.

2.0 Roll Call

The following people were present: William Wagener, Chair; Paul Cooper, Vice-Chair; Tammie Wood, Secretary & Parent; David Gross, Teacher; Rodney Atchley, Teacher; Cheryl Darlington, Principal's Secretary; Michael Hermsillo, Assistant Principal.

3.0 Changes to Agenda

None

4.0 Reading and Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

01/24/2022 Minutes: Paul Cooper made a motion to approve the January 24, 2022 meeting minutes. Rod Atchley seconded. The motion passed with one abstention. Michael Hermsillo abstained due to not being present at the meeting.

5.0 Public Comment

None

6.0 Reports

6.1 ELAC Report

Tammie Wood attended an ELAC meeting on January 26, 2022. They announced the EL Students of the Month. Several were in attendance, which was a pleasant surprise. We reviewed the SPSA Professional Development. When we got to the Needs Assessment, there were not any parents that volunteered ideas. This seems to be the pattern at these meetings. There is low attendance; and when parents do attend, they do not speak up.

Mrs. Wood attended the DELAC meeting on February 2, 2022. We reviewed the SPSA Professional Development for each school as well as the Needs Assessments. We also reviewed the 8 state priorities directed by the California Department of Education which is what drives our goals. 8 years ago we switched to LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) which is funding based on needs such as foster youth, EL, and low income. LCFF supplemental funds are determined by School Site Council on how to use them. This was the first time being involved in ELAC & DELAC where there was a lot of participation and ideas. During the DELAC meeting, Alisal High School brought up a concern about teen

parents not having a place to go. They are being denied at El Puente and Mt. Toro. Mr. Garcia would like to try to get rid of the roadblocks preventing them from attending. I brought this to the attention of Principal Green and he explained why they are being denied (*he only knew of one that was denied*). There are not enough students to justify the added classes and because we are an independent study program, they would not be immersed into English learning and it would be detrimental to them in the long run. It would set them up to fail. However, Mr. Hermosillo stated that there have been students accepted into Mt. Toro because of the daycare program. He believes there is a way to accommodate teen parents. He would like to come up with a solution.

The next ELAC meeting will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. The next DELAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

6.2 Student Report

None

6.3 Parent Report

Tammie Wood stated that the next Parent Newsletter would be coming out within the next few days.

6.4 Staff Report

David Gross has seen an improvement with his ADA students. Talking Points has improved parent contact.

Paul Cooper has been working with students that have very low STAR Testing in reading. It is very concerning. He has some students that are reading at a 1st grade level. They are working in MYON. He recommended getting reading assistance programs. Cheryl Darlington stated that we have some already (RAZKIDS or MYON can read to them.) Mr. Cooper will look into it.

Rodney Atchley would like to look closer at the parameters of the SPSA and where money needs to be assigned. There has not been any improvement with some students. He has students at 3rd & 4th grade reading levels and does not have tools to help them appropriately. Some students are only finishing 1 or .3 credits a week. Why are we not doing a reading assessment in order to get into El Puente? Apparently when we were just a program, we did reading assessments. When we became a school, that stopped. Tammie Wood mentioned that maybe we need to assign funds for a special class that helps students with such low reading levels. Students with 1st grade through 4th grade reading levels cannot succeed without intervention.

William Wagener mentioned WASC. They will be visiting in the middle of March. Piggy-backing off of Mr. Atchley's concerns, Mr. Wagener stated that we need to review the SPSA from beginning to end. We should address these concerns within the plan. Can we serve the needs of these students? It will take some time and we will need to review a

chunk at a time. Mr. Wagener will add the first review of the SPSA to the agenda for our next meeting. Mr. Wagener also is very concerned about the low number of HiSET students. Where are they? Students need to know that there is more than one path to graduation. We need to find a way to obtain more students.

David Gross is concerned that in order to get a student into the Lone Wolf Program, the teacher must have 2 positive parent contacts. The problem is that many of the parents will not respond; even after 5-6 attempts. He feels we need to revise the policy. Mr. Wagener stated that if parents are not responding after that many attempts, that he should go ahead and submit the students to the Lone Wolf Program. It was also mentioned that the Lone Wolf Program is a very lengthy process. There is a lot of follow-up that has to occur.

Rodney Atchley discussed how counselors have a terrible time trying to reach parents as well. Parents need to be responsible in getting their kids to school. Without truancy capabilities, it makes it very difficult to get students to comply. We need to define the roles of Teacher responsibilities vs. Counselor responsibilities vs. Student responsibilities vs. Parent responsibilities.

6.5 Administration Report

Michael Herмосillo has enjoyed being part of these meetings. He is hearing a lot that he would not normally hear.

Mr. Herмосillo announced that they have successfully submitted the self study for WASC. He is waiting on a check-in with Principal Green next week as to when the one-on-one with the WASC Chair will occur. The accreditation meeting will be in person this year. Mr. Herмосillo and Mr. Green will come up with a plan on how to prepare staff for the visit.

Mr. Herмосillo stated that the EL's are in an excellent position because of the Title III funds that we receive. He is not aware of how much funds we have, but would like to look into an intense academy for these students. He saw much success when he put 20 middle schoolers through the program that were nearly meeting reading standards. Only one dropped out due to soccer. They are all Juniors now and are meeting or exceeding expectations with the exception of one. The one student admits he did not take it seriously. It is costly. The program for the 20 was approximately \$10,000, but he feels it was worth it.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Budget Recommendations

There are not any categorical budget changes at this time.

William Wagener discussed the need to spend funds before we lose it. There are a couple of deadlines coming up. One is for this school year and the next deadline is September. Cheryl Darlington explained the following deadlines for this school year:

- March 18, 2022: Technology Purchase Orders

- March 25, 2022: New Textbooks and Supplementals
- April 1, 2022: All Other School Supplies

David Gross asked about furniture. Cheryl explained it is equipment cost and she will check with the business office. Mr. Gross mentioned that there are students that do not fit in the desks and there are students having to work with their computer on their laps.

Paul Cooper asked when the new ChromeBooks will arrive. Cheryl Darlington stated that they have been ordered per the last meeting (5 per teacher). We had a discussion that some of the funds need to be spent on an additional 5 ChromeBooks per teacher for a total of 10. Everyone was in agreement.

Rodney Atchley made a motion to find funding to purchase 5 more ChromeBooks per teacher (60). Paul Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David Gross asked if there is a plan for having enough ChromeBooks for the upcoming SBAC/CAST testing in mid-April. Grades 8 & 11 need to test, as well as some Seniors due to not testing last year because of COVID.

Tammie Wood brought up Mrs. Forster requested 20 hours during Spring Break to work with her students. Nobody was aware of the request as Principal Green was not present. Mr. Wagener believed, if approved, it would come out of intercession funds, which we already have.

8.0 Announcements

Our next School Site Council meeting has been changed to Thursday, March 10, 2022 @ 2:15-3:15 PM to better accommodate the looming budget deadlines.

9.0 Adjournment

Paul Cooper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Gross seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned by William Wagener at 3:10 PM.