

Home of the Eagles



Nanwalek Elementary/High School

Site Council Minutes
10/1/2015

Roll Call

Pauline Demas
Kara Fraser
Glen Fraser
Tommy Evans
Eloise Huntsman
Nancy Kleine

Absent

Kevin Seville
Michele Ash
Pricilla Evans (arrived at 7:39)
Larry Ukatish

Public

Mandy

Opening

Call to order 7:10

Reading of Mission Statement & ConnectED Vision Statement (Kara)

Approval of Minutes (from 8/31/2015)

Welcome to New Members / Review of Current Members

Project Grad Report

- BIG news happening, Jane is busy ironing out details
- Project Grad awarded another 3-year Native Ed Grant! Services in those communities can continue.
- Continuing with “Campus Family Support” (shifting to student/family support)
- Instruction coaching shifting to academic coaching
 - Support to teachers will still continue
 - Supplementing that with direct support of the students

- Empower them to be more in tune with their own strengths, help them understand and take hold of their power for the positive.
 - Help students graduate in a timely manner
 - Problem solving aid for when they have problems in the classroom
 - Pinpointing support for individuals
- Bonnie and Jennifer working hard to organize Leadership Institute. Will be taking some delegates to the AFN conference
- Native Nations Leadership Forum – inaugural event
 - Larry, Carrie, Verina involved in these youth leadership opportunities
- Exploration Institute didn't see as many numbers. Thanks to everyone for being flexible and helping with that.
 - Eric planning some lunch sessions with the students (probably more than 3 sessions to share with them empowerment lessons about grit, perseverance, etc.)

Connect Ed Grant Update

- Nanwalek mentioned in the President of the United States' speech from Kotzebue
- Our school chosen as a case study by SRI. Penny Bearden is taking the lead as their contact.
 - Researching what changes occur as a result of the grant.
- Nancy invited to speak on 3-person panel at the National Indian Education Conference in Portland on October 17
- Sally Eberhart from Apple was here for a day. Spent time with teachers, paras, classrooms, etc.
- Students in classrooms are using iPads in multiple ways to support academics

Federal Programs Title I Programs informational video – Title I

- Discussed Title I in Nanwalek – Thomas Evans 1 hour/day to support reading

Student Report – Larry Ukatish (absent)

Principal's Report

- AMP (Alaska Measures of Progress) Results are going to come out to parents soon. It is expected that results will look differently than previous years
 - Tests on new standards (which are more rigorous)
 - Student scores may look lower, but student achievement is not lower
 - Results not delivered in spring, because it was being held to create a baseline
 - Scores out some time October
- Formally submitted school goals (passed out in packet)
 - Attendance Related Goal and Chart
 - Attendance has dipped lately
 - PFD will likely impact attendance – as site council members, please support attendance when talking with families
 - Asked parents to take trips on the weekend and to do what they can to keep their kids in school
 - Incentives for perfect attendance last month (shifting to once a month)
 - Pricilla suggests field trips instead of movies
 - Classroom teacher incentives, eagle days announced, more.
 - Reading related goal
 - Reading affects everything. Trying to increase our number of on-grade-level readers
 - Community interaction related goal, a chance to educate about attendance

- Working on creating a graph to compare last year's attendance to this years
- Parent Teacher Conferences – Oct. 29th-30th
- End of Quarter – Oct. 16th
- Next Thursday special event: Job Fair
 - Afternoon session in Nanwalek
 - Resume writing session next morning
 - Project grad working to assist kids to make the most of the experience
- Early Release on Oct. 28th
- Carnival on Oct. 30th
- Scholastic Book Fair in Early November (date to be announced)
- Full time and half time Special Ed Aid positions open!! Get the word out. Great opportunities.
 - Position reduced because of drop in number of SpEd students & reconfiguration
- Equipment Grant requested (in proposal stage)
 - Replace bilingual room chairs & 4th-5th grade chairs
 - Replace folding chairs
 - Volleyball net
 - Picnic Tables for the backyard
 - Another set of lockers for the entry way
 - Risers (for a children's choir Nancy wants to start soon)
 - SIDENOTE:
 - Where bleachers for the gym looked in to? No, there just isn't enough space.
 - Julie Cisco invited to this meeting, but was in Washington D.C. (said she would come next time). In short, there is no money for a building expansion.
 - Outside agencies/people who want to invest in a school like ours??
 - Tommy: Architect note from previous site councils from long go-- Why did they build a site so small? "They didn't expect anyone living here 20 years in the future." Could we become a 501c3 non-profit? Other Alaskan schools have.
 - This grant has made a difference in our school & awareness for our site has increased.
- Calendar for Next School Year
 - Checked by Father Victor for holiday and spring break.
 - Wanted to run by site council to check for issues.
 - Notify by end of week if any issues found.
- Construction Academy cancelled, due to instructor declining position.
- Upstairs display from many years ago
 - Finally removed old items from display case upstairs (bones, skull, ivory, etc.)
 - What to do with skeletal pieces, etc.
 - Have a site council member sell them and use funds for students?
 - Auction? EBay?
 - Basketball program always struggles for funds
 - Have student council talk about what to do with funds IF we can sell them
 - Put it in the Nanwalek Museum?
 - Mandy: Ivory carving elective in the future?
 - Check with district on our plan and figure out rules for us to sell these items.

Teacher Reports

Kara:

- Lost one student, so we are down to 11 students in the 2nd – 3rd grade
- Attendance is up. Same couple kids who are struggling with attendance still.
- 5 Eagle days, so we had our first eagle day party. 2 eagle days away from another party.
- Sally Eberhart from Apple came into the room and showed how students could record themselves reading and send/share it with students (to help with fluency). Also taught some things about Garage Band app for music creation.
- Halloween stuff started (first book today). Students
- Sebastian (parent) came in today and read. Daughter was student of the week.

Glen:

- Block scheduling has been good
- Some improvement on attendance
- Senior with perfect attendance
- Block scheduling helps students go deeper – Glen struggling with pacing. Trying to instill a sense of urgency in the kids so that there is a completion of work at the end of two hours.
- HS is more verbally engaged this year – try to make sure every voice is heard. Glen still can't step out of discussions. Continuing opportunities for students to take risks in front of each other
- Glen thought it would get easier the longer he is here, but it hasn't – don't get to teach books/classes over again. Feeling the strain.
- Enthusiasm in class is draining, but it is paying dividends

Tommy:

- Big difference in new schedule and new responsibilities
- Appreciate teachers taking the initiative to prepare students
- Students going from clueless (summer months draining their academics) to being able to kick back into school work and academic improvements
- Challenge to keep them at the same pace as other students
- Appreciate the help from the professionals
- From the outside looking in, didn't realize all the technology, formats, styles, and work that goes into this job.
- Though difficult, still one of the best jobs I've ever had. Learning a lot
- Getting students to engage in government
- Tommy's incentive: if students get all their work done and their a few minutes early, will read scary stories from Alexandrovsk and other online resources.

Public Comments & Storytelling

None

Meeting Adjourned @ 8:37 PM