

Home of the Eagles



Nanwalek Elementary/High School

Site Council Minutes
11/2/2015

Roll Call

Glen Fraser
Kara Fraser
Larry Ukatish
Pauline Demas
Michelle Ash
Eloise Huntsman
Kevin Seville
Thomas Evans
Nancy Kleine

Absent

Adele Kvasnikoff
Priscilla Evans

Public

Penny Bearden
Eric Knudtson

Opening @ 7:12

Call to Order

Reading of Mission Statement

-Glen Fraser

Approval of Minutes (from 10/1/2015)

Discussion of minutes

- Kara: Any news on equipment grant?
 - Nancy: Awarded 50 folding chairs to replace broken
 - Plastic stacking chairs for 4-5 room and bilingual room
 - Cabinet for staff room coffee/supplies
 - Denied (risers for stage, volleyball net, picnic tables) → use rollover funds
 - Julie Cisco checking on a new storage conex and lockers
 - Kara: Any news on bones (walrus, etc.)
 - Nancy: the questions have been given to district office
- Vote and approved.

ConnectEd Grant Update

Nancy traveled to Portland to speak at National Indian Education Association conference.

- Lots of singing, dancing, great experience
- Attended many workshops looking for ideas for use of technology for indigenous languages, etc.
- Highly political environment
 - Advocacy for native education
 - Talk of federal funds
 - World Café (what would you like to see for Native education in the next 50 years?)
- The panel Nancy took part in was final day.
 - Much interest in what we are doing here with the Connect Ed Grant and what we have learned through this.
 - Tried to convey excitement about kids forging into new territory
 - Since the conference, Nancy has had a lot of contact from people who attended
 - Invited back next year to update conference on our progress
 - Received a continuum of Native education for non-native educators that is useful

Sally Eberhart from Apple provided recent professional development

- iBook's Author training to build interactive books
- Technology troubleshooting (connection / sign-in problems)
- Work session for time to work on what we're learning during last early-release

School Board Presentation

- Penny Bearden creating an iMovie to give a sneak peak at all that is going on in our classrooms
- Nancy creating a Charter document for ConnectEd Grant to share with board
- Presenting during Sunni Hilts last board meeting – glad she will be there
 - Would like us to sign a card to thank her for her advocacy

Tommy: One of the biggest differences with this project is that students are totally engaged K-12.

Student Report – Larry Ukatish

- Work on iPad has reduced paper work
- Students more engaged than when we had slow laptops
- Attendance has been better compared to last year
- Curriculum has changed. More advanced and slower.
- AFN / NYL trip.
 - Meeting with some elders beforehand
 - Attended many meetings
 - Guided experience with Project Grad
 - College and job fairs attended

Principal's Report

Budget Meeting

- Any additional questions someone wants me to forward, please let me know.
- Tasked with finding ways of cutting the budget.
- Ideas generated – will forward to district office

Service Project Discussion

High school graduation requirements: Do we want to add community service project?

- Outside of school hours.
- In community or school
- Idea is to have students become more community and service-minded
- Example: Homer High has a 20-30 hour requirement

Discussion:

Kara: Think it's a good idea

Glen: Concerned about mission creep, how will these projects begin to take place during the day?

Auggie: Students waiting for the last minute

Eloise: If outside of school hours, it shouldn't affect instruction

Kara: Planning and facilitation could fall on teachers / classroom time

Tommy: Can see Glen's point. Things start with good intention, but sometimes fall back on us.

Pauline: Concern about our students being able to help the village

Auggie: Wood cutting of basketball season. Many responsibilities around the village students could be paired with a mentor (example, runway maintenance)

Pauline: Would be great for their self-esteem.

Nancy: Would be a partnership with the community (student driven) where the student would have to seek a mentor to sign off on hours.

Auggie: When I was at school in Homer, a similar project was daunting and I moved back home to get away from it.

Eloise: Echoed Pauline's sentiments about self esteem

Nancy: Next meeting can we do a more structured activity weighing pros/cons and structure.

Building

- Julie Cisco could not attend. She let Nancy know there are no funds for building expansion.
- How can we "expand" our building use in other, creative ways?
- Shop: continual effort to clear out shop and create more space
- Attic: Create more space. Construct better staircase so we aren't breaking fire code.
- Fire Marshall discussion about Penny's room and science lab for upcoming large groups
- How else?
 - Shuffling class size/group size (scheduling differently). Have a 5-6, 7-8, etc. or two high school groups if needed.
 - Consolidating the libraries (elementary / secondary)
 - Conex for unused equipment
 - Teen center usage?
- Happy that we were able to find housing for deaf-ed interpreter (freed up small book room between secondary rooms).
- Shifting storage into Penny's classroom and moving her classroom into the shop (or other large space)

AMP Testing (Alaska Measures of Progress)

- First year was last April
- Scores available to Nancy this Wednesday
- Parents will receive their reports in the next few weeks
- Scoring is very different than SBA (previous state test)
- We want people to realize that scores will likely be much lower, because tests are measuring against new Alaska State standards. Scores should increase over time as teachers continue to implement these new standards.
- Mrs. Fraser is our Test administrator
- iPad testing not supported LAST year, but maybe this year?

Attendance

- Still a big issue
- Every grade level was higher than they were at this point last year
- BUT attendance is quickly slipping (families leaving for weeks at a time, etc.)
- Principal spent conference time calling and talking to parents / students
- Getting more support from the community might be the next important step
- Talking with Sarah Evans for a project?
- Getting council involved with rewarding attendance
- Safeway still donating doughnuts once per month for perfect attendance
 - 15 students awarded this for October
- What can community award?
- How to target the egregious / chronic attendance issues
- Form a Committee (attendance incentive) for calling around to get prizes/donations for attendance award

- Projects (e.g. interview an elder) as a reward. Get out of school
- End of day video game opportunity

Miscellaneous

- Suicide Prevention Group: “You’re Not Alone” coming November 20
- Segment on Nanwalek/Port Graham Job Fair on district website have included many of our kids
- Bullying related guests – Nancy looking

Next Meeting Reschedule

- Have our next meeting Nov. 23 3:00 social with our school staff, then meet 4:00

Title I

- Rollover funds going towards after school tutoring geared towards K-2 literacy

ANSEP

- Coming up in February. 3 students qualify. Being invited to apply.

Staffing

- Full time position filled by Vivian Ukatish
- Half time position still open

Teacher Report

Kara

- Past few weeks students have been increasingly tired
- Reminded parents about 8:30-9 bedtimes for 2nd and 3rd graders
- Made our first iBook’s (students had made pages on iPads about Halloween plans)
 - Retrieving pictures that don’t violate copy rules, etc.
 - Airdropped our finished book to them today!
- Starting a new book “All about Me Book”

Penny

- Working on photosynthesis and some advanced mathematics with HS
- MS has been engaged in health with first aid / CPR (how to react in a real emergency)
- Internship almost half over
 - Appreciative to people’s openness to running PDs and being welcomed into classrooms

Glen (Nancy’s notes)

Tommy:

- Everything’s good
- Learning about people and cause/effect
 - Exercise shared with the staff to help with sporadic brain activity
 - Cross arms, grab opposite ear lobes, do squats, focus on breathing
- Really liked the idea about asking families and communities to be partners
- We need students to engage holistically in community

Auggie:

- Travel with MS kids for basketball games
- Wonderful competition over 4 games. Kids played really hard. Enjoyed that travel and competing against other kids. Made some friendships that will last.
- Nikolaevsk, Chapman, Homer MS, Anchor Point
- Boys injured, only 3 left to play. Had two girls come over and play (was a scrimmage, nothing formal)
 - Pushed them into OT after that!
 - Speaks great things about our 1st year program

- Invited back for regional tournament... we're not eligible
- Girls team invited back to play Homer MS A-TEAM
- Hopefully we have funding for future opportunities.

Project Grad

- Last big thing was our grant to fund us moving forward with native education
- More student support
- Hiring new person
- More post-secondary support
- Kenny working with us now
- Larry involved with NYL
- KPNYL meeting together in Anchorage
- Phlight club happened (youth empowerment)
- Shift towards less academics and more towards supporting students around school
- 4 main projects of the calendar year
 - Summer Institute (college experience)
 - Leadership activities of the fall.
 - Exploration Institute (9th / 10th graders looking forward to colleges)
 - Post-secondary planning
 - Increasing success in school
 - Student growth mindsets
 - Career Institute
- Used to focus on 9th and up. Moving down (even to 7th grade).
- Mission is to support student graduation

Penny: Some of our students are reluctant to go to these post-secondary opportunities because of the lack of support. Having a sponsor family at their new location might be wonderful.

Public Comments

Adjournment @ 8:50