

Topanga Elementary Charter School

Leadership Council Minutes

January 28, ~~2019~~ 2020

1:45pm

Call to Order by Amy Weisberg at 1:50 pm (Ms. Weisberg was the facilitator, J.B. Whittenburg recorded the minutes).

Welcome & Introductions: Ms. Weisberg read the decorum of the meeting.

Roll call: Teachers absent - Harlow, Welch, Tapper

Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. We need to look at the Tech survey data regarding working iPads in 2nd grade – Dr. A says see her if this is incorrect.

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Weisberg (minus the Tech survey data)

Seconded by Mr. Harrell

Motion approved by all

Public Comments

Stephanie Lackenby wondering about the pickup line, perhaps we could have no parking on the side going up to the school. Mr. K will look into this.

Also, can TK-1 parents have a consistent childcare option for leadership council meeting days? STAR should be an option – Mr. K will ask to confirm that this will work.

Committee Reports

Curriculum

-Adopted a new Science textbook. Given a choice between two new publishers, FOSS and Amplify – a group of teachers and parents (Sondra, Kent, Rena) went to a presentation and the decision was made to go with FOSS.

-Reasons: FOSS will have better training for all teachers, will have the flexibility to be used by Rena and teachers in order to meet NGSS standard, and other neighboring schools chose the same program.

Technology

-Computer Lab cabinet cleaned out

-New iPads coming- Jeff will image. He needs to know what apps primary teachers want on them. Dr. A will send a survey, which will include cost comparisons

-Laptop order: we did get the money, we are ordering Chromebooks, Dr. A is coordinating with Jeff to make sure we get the right models for our system

-iPad order: Moria gave an update that the district had old information that grant was for either iPads or water stations. The grant has been approved, Mr. Napoli said it would take 3-4 weeks but still have not been delivered. Grant is called Bond Grant – submitted to Nick Melvoin's office – Mr. K will follow up.

- Mrs. Weisberg: Based on last year, there was an understanding that we were going to be getting iPads AND water refilling stations. Melvoin seems to be giving different information to different people – Mr. K will follow up with Allison (in Melvoin’s office)
- Miria is looking into replacing batteries in old macbooks
- Computer Lab internet is working again, still need projector mounted on ceiling, need better outlet management to avoid daisy-chaining, need new tables to replace broken ones
- We have some carts for new iPads, may need to obtain others from salvage
- Miria also looking into increasing school wifi capabilities with Jeff

Safety

- Benches and stage below have a lot of loose screws that will need parent help with (district won’t fix because these were put in privately)
- Stage area trees need to be pruned by district gardeners
- Need for a safe front office environment: front door buzzer, checking IDs, not regular glass
- Stephanie came to fix the Lok Blocks that needed to be fixed
- 10:00 AM, Feb 5th at the Topanga Library
- Amy Ruskin: proposes that we bring Student Council into helping with safety, Amy will create a list of what they have in mind and will send to Dr. A and Ms. Tapper
- Ms. Galindo: kids stomping all over the garden area and parents don’t help supervise > asked Mr. K to come down and be the bad guy one day
- TEP approved the site assessment with Rabbi Yossi, has not happened yet, but we should be getting his report quickly after the assessment is completed > Office AMIR LAUSD PD is going to also complete a site assessment (it will take longer to get theirs),
- Cameras: got a quote from Tony Booker, will consult with Rabbi Yossi to get his opinion.
- Manual gate into parking lot: looking into making this an automatic gate

Science

- Raptor Day a big success
- Xerxes plants are all in the ground – looking out for monarch butterflies now. Shout out to many many parents who worked together plus ~200 children who helped with this project
- Topanga Nights: Our Place in Space – moved to backup date of April 17th (Friday first week back after Spring Break)
- March 18 – 5th grade science day
- 3/31 – 4/1 – Science Fair
- 5/31: Butterfly Day

TEP

As a recap TEP has a fundraising goal this school year of \$302,800, as those are the total expenditures TEP has for the 2019-20 school year.

YTD (including expected monthly donations to the giving fund through June 2020) TEP has raised almost \$238,000! In that total, the safety fund alone has collected about \$13,000. A big thank you to all who contributed including Fuji and JB Whittenburg for covering the cost of the new lock system installed and a big thank you to Casey Engelhardt and his mom for spreading the word and collecting donations from

outside the school! So not including the safety fund money in this years budget TEP has collected about 74% of our goal, so TEP still needs to fundraise about \$78,000 this school year.

Big Fundraisers coming up:

Spell-A-Thon is on Friday, February 7th. Please help your kids learn the words and encourage them to collect pledges. Mike Burke and I have been working on developing a website, like the one for the coyote run, for kids to get pledges. The domain is www.spell-a-thon.com

Silent Auction will be on Saturday, May 2nd. We have decided to have the event at the TCC this year and we have already begun planning the decor and style to make it a really fun time for all the parents or other community members who attend.

Given that there are only 2 large fundraisers left this year we are in need of Party Book events, so if any parents are interested in hosting an event to help fundraise for TEP we are here to help you. For more information please contact our TEP President, Julianne Gorman. Her email is president@topangaelementary.org.

TEP is actively seeking a new team for the production of the yearbook, as the parents who have been handling it are all parents of 5th graders...so if anyone knows any designers and marketers who can learn the ropes (our creative template, our process, our preferred printer, etc) we need these parents ASAP to learn the ropes. For this also please contact our TEP President, Julianne Gorman. Her email is president@topangaelementary.org.

Lastly, the book fair went well. TEP decided to elect for scholastic dollars, rather than cash. So we currently have \$4,043.17 in scholastic dollars. Mr. K has the scholastic catalog of all the items we can order with those funds and we have asked him to help TEP decide how to allocate those scholastic dollars to make sure they are used for the school as efficiently as possible.

VAPA

- Thanks to Leadership Council and school for all of the support – showed a 2019 recap video
- Upcoming Art show

Principal Report

- Charter Renewal: Mr. K met with Committee regarding the Renewal process
- Window for submission: March 9-11, 2020
- Altering the charter is considering a material revision that would be needed to be approved by LAUSD board > would be better to just submit for renewal
- Budget: Front End Software training on 1.30 (Mr. K), also another training that Mr. K and Joanna will attend
- LCAP: Stakeholder engagement meetings happening soon. Draft LCAP for review between now and June (with stakeholder input)
- Facilities: looking into using the computer lab for use as maker space (Ms. Tobisman – maybe Science would be better, others shared concerns that parents might not be best to trust with using computer lab for Maker); computer lab needs furniture outlets, WIFI issues
- Blacktop restoration with heat resistant paint
- Looking into new designs/configurations for lower and upper yards (for eg moving handball courts), could be happening this summer and/or next summer (bringing Coach Derrick into this conversation)
- Amy Ruskin: Maker club looking into using the Computer Lab for storage > Dr. A: actually the plan was to use the lab for more than storage

Mr. Kessebaum moved to adjourn
Ms. Weisberg seconded to adjourn
Meeting adjourned

DRAFT