Topanga Elementary Charter School

**Leadership Council Minutes**

March 19, 2019

1:45pm

Call to Order by Julie Tobisman at 1:55 pm (Ms. Tobisman was the facilitator, Ms. De La O recorded the minutes).

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

Roll call: All present except Ms. Shreeman (parent representative).

Minutes from last meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Weisberg

Seconded by Ms. Wabnig

Motion approved by all

**Public Comments**

Lisa Davis- Kinder parent/Getty Villa Education specialist spoke.

She brought packets for teachers for possible standards based field trips to the Getty Villa. Multiple modalities addressed with docents for the standard-based tours. Lots of cross-curricular arts connections for arts integration.

Jessica Jacobs- Kinder parent and parent leadership representative alternate spoke next.

Re: Homework

Reiterated a request for HW research.

She would like to try to find a way to involve more parents in meetings. She would like to find more ways to open the meetings to parents who aren’t always able to attend daytime meetings. As the charter includes involving parents, she realizes that teachers are here all day and not available at night and that parents are more available at night. She thinks that maybe live streaming meetings might be a way to solve that problem. Perhaps the technology committee can be charged with solving the lack of parent access to the leadership and committee meetings.

**Committee Reports**

**Curriculum**

Art Teacher

Funding $7000 TEP, Variety Show $2400, Play $4000

*Lunch Bunch* for the library- non-instructional time with kids who want quiet time. Grades 3-5 or 4/5…will pilot with 5th grade.

Story Pirates: Fri 4/12 and 5/17 - one assembly for lower grades, one for upper.

Get breakfast and intervention costs to TEP.

Discussed *Planet Bravo*/*Computer wise kids* technology programs for students

Discussed “Book Tasting” to sample books.

**Safety**

More expected behavior type signs to be posted.

Summary of redacted MISIS incidents were looked at.

Jessica Jacobs would like to be included on committee that works on the SWPBIS rubric, etc. She would also like all behavior incidents tracked and made public to parents.

Game rules are to be posted in play areas.

Discussed possible safety vests to be worn while going to/from bathroom.

**Technology**

Kidspiration Software- $995- one-time cost for a program that will be a good visual/scaffold for writing and across the curriculum.

Discussed other websites/software

Getting an update from TEP on new hardware: requested 24-30 laptops for 2/3 grades and possibly 20 iPads for Kinder/1st.

Two teachers are going to go to LAUSD salvage at the end of April to look for technology/furniture we may want and bring it back here.

The committee recommend bringing *Planet Bravo* back for next year, or possibly looking into *Computer Wise Kids*.

**Science**

Science Committee met on Feb 15, 2019.

5th grade Science Day team met on March 6.

Summary:

1. Upcoming Events:

A.5th **Grade Science Day** ‐ April 3 (Wed) = (5th grade + hart street)

I. Science Day team met on March 6 to finalize plans for Science Day.

ii.Same format as last year, which all thought was a success.

1. All partners are secured.

2. A few items remain to attend to.

a. Hikes: We have 6 adults for hikes currently. Sondra and Reale requested additional volunteers for hikes and will recruit parents for this. Rena will work with Michael Glenn from US Fish & Wildlife to prep TECS 5th graders to help in hike leads

b .Green Energy/Solar station. Would be good if something is hands on for the kids. Kent will reach out to the presenters to advise.

C .Fish Dissection. Kent will request more fish from RCD so groups of students can each have a fish and Rena will provide charts that the students can fill in with information about what they discover.

d. Water – last year we needed more water. Steve will check school stores to see if we have a water dispenser to use. Kent will obtain compostable or other cups, as well as water bottles to hand out to students.

b .Science Fair ‐ April 9, 10 (Tues, Wed)

1. Announcements sent: (Friday Focus, MySchool Anywhere App, printed flyers home in students’ backpacks.)
2. Logistics:

1. Tues (4/9) = poster drop off in morning, family viewing in evening with snacks and drinks (time TBD).

2. Wed (4/10) = classroom viewing and poster judging  Need to be sure to establish judging and classroom viewing times with teachers .LET’S DO THIS WELL IN ADVANCE of the date.

3. REQUESTS:

a. can we get a teacher to coordinate the times that each classroom will be viewing on Wed, April 10?

b. PLEASE ANNOUNCE to Classrooms. We have a strong response so far, but still want to get the word out with redundancy.

c. Butterfly Day ‐ June 2 (Sun) = Butterfly Day at the Mermaid – Save the date.

i. Alisa Land has secured the Mermaid as well as several partners, including Malibu Monarch Society, Audubon Society, Topanga Town Council, and the National Wildlife Federation. Alisa has also secured two music performers, one current and one former TECS parent, who will perform for the day ‐ more to come as we finalize details. This is a community outreach event – it’s a great learning/enrichment opportunity for the students, and a chance for the school to interface with the Topanga community and environmental science partners.

**Old and New Business**

Budget meeting before 3/27

Teachers filled out a needs survey for budget priority. This was their rankings

1. ½ CSR Teacher
2. Instructional aides
3. Extra School Psychologist day
4. ½ a coordinator position to assist with intervention, GATE, EL programs, professional development and assistance with…
5. JFS Counselor

Facilities Report

Meeting at Taft was mostly about Taft. We are waiting for updates from the district on the bungalows being replaced and the playground being resurfaced.

Daily interaction with Nature: Jessica Jacobs noticed in the charter discussion of a daily interaction with nature. She interprets this to mean that we should be interacting with nature beyond the walking outside/playing outside we normally do on a daily basis, recess and lunch, and the monthly science hikes.

**TEP**

Silent Auction May 4th at (the Schmidt’s house) venue.

Mary Poppins was this past weekend – awesome!

Next year, the play will be produced less expensively and as more of as a fundraiser.

Budget is in a better position year. We’ll probably have a surplus and discussion of what to do with that money.

**VAPA**

They would like to move forward with hiring an art teacher for next year. 7 hours/week, classes going every other week in will cost about $20,000 for the year.

Discussed cost of Art Teacher vs. cost of Art Trek as well as cost of Planet Bravo/ or some kind of technology teacher.

Mr. Harrell: Teachers really would like to see Planet Bravo or the like come back.

Ms. Tobisman: Teachers are capable/like to teach art and are less comfortable with teaching say coding.

Ms. Tapper: In an ideal world, we would want both specialists.

Next agenda items:

Art Teacher

Planet Bravo

Mr. Harrell moved to adjourn

Ms. Scott-Sexton seconded to adjourn

Meeting adjourned