

Topanga Elementary Charter School

Leadership Council Minutes

September 11, 2018

1:45pm

Call to Order by Mr. Gediman (Mr. Gediman was the facilitator, Ms. De La O recorded the minutes).

Welcome & Introductions: See sign-in... Welcome to new/changed members.

Public Comments: none

Minutes from last meeting: Name typos will be corrected. Summer requested a correction regarding field trips.

Motion to approve the minutes by Roger Harrell

Seconded by Summer

Motion approved by all

No public comments

Old and New Business

- Field Trips: TEP will no longer fund fieldtrip buses or admissions fees. Buses are more expensive now: \$410.

The school can fund 2 buses per grade level. We are going to look for free field trips and any fees will be funded by parent donation. Any field trips that are further than 2 hours away require charter buses that are more expensive. The 5th grade longer field trip the school can fund \$410 toward the bus, but not more.

- Homework

The bulletin included in the parent handbook was outdated the updated bulletin was distributed and corrected through the Friday focus.

Summer would like to revisit the homework policy for Topanga. Last year, time was spent discussing homework research, but she doesn't feel that enough time was available to do enough to investigate. She would like to form a sub-committee to further investigate our homework policy.

Raquel Galindo asked for clarification

Kent: would like objectives of homework to be clear and not just rote activities. He has seen changes/improvement over the years. Would like flexibility and understanding of the teachers' rationale for their homework.

Sondra

Survey of the teachers - past, current, changes.

Read research and looked through books.

Talked with other schools and districts

Talked to Middle school we feed into

Revised handbook over the summer

Following current district policy
Teachers are willing to work with individual families regarding individual concern
Research varies slightly across grade level
More communication between teachers and parents
Would like research link included on the school website
Curriculum would like to figure out a solution today to move forward

Summer would like to continue the research and is worried that we might be unwilling to continue the learning from the research.

Ms. Chatham thinks it is valuable as a way of communicating between home and school to know if the student is mastering the concepts.

Ms. Galindo is concerned about having enough time for an additional committee. Suggested the possibility of parents reaching out to individual teachers.

Vera's mom: Thinks homework works well to prep students and that parents should be reaching out to the teachers.

Mr. Harrell thinks that homework serves multiple events.

Farracy shared that she has always communicated with teachers about specific concerns, especially when homework couldn't be completed.

Andrea is going to share with parents that communication is open between teachers and parents. Parents may work with teachers on their individual concerns.

Summer will email new research.

Potential Strike

If a Teacher's Union (UTLA) goes on strike, school will remain open and students will be kept safe etc.

Several parents shared support for the teachers and are interested in getting more information about how to help.

TEP: no TEP members present

VAPA Report

Tracy:

Fall Variety Show possibly Nov. 1st or 2nd

A lot of unknowns depending on responses

Roger motioned to have an in-school assembly for overflow of variety show.

Andrea seconded

All approved

Art Room & Enrichment schedule

The goal is to use the art room for Art Trek and eventually the art teacher/s. Tracy has created time slots for each class to visit the designated Art room.

They will be working with the Curriculum committee.

Science Committee met Aug. 24th.

New committee members.

April 3rd Hart Street Science Day

April 9th and 10th Science Fair

June 2nd Butterfly Day

TCC event was successful: Telescope/Space Night at Fiddle and Griddle

Considering a Raptor Day (On-campus field trip)

Trying to work with Topanga Tile to have another tile day: Wildlife and Space

Coordinating with VAPA on some things too

Principal's Report

Pest Control

Lots of offers from parents for killing of all the pests... District doesn't allow anything but soapy water. No poison!

Bungalow and Blacktop work

Rooms 15 and 16/Star bungalows will eventually be replaced. Timeline not solidified

Andrea moved to adjourn

Mr. Harrell seconded

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm