

Minutes: 2/22/2024

Attendance: 15 (parents & staff)

5:30: Meeting opening: Karen & Amber (interim co-chairs of SCC)

- Overview of meeting agenda
- Review of 2/8 meeting minutes & action items

Suggestions made from previous meeting

- Professional development opportunities for PCM administrators
- Communication expectations for board to review, especially around staffing, leaves of absence, communications with parents, etc

Review of Bev's responses to SCC action items:

- Finance committee reviewing pay/salary of staff to make sure they are on par with local school systems
- **"How can we make PCM an attractive place to work?"**
 - Bev noted that long term subs are entering as support and not as lead teachers
 - Question from Elise Albano about pay increases for IAs stepping into lead/guide positions, specifically in regards to Katie and Theo who have taken over in those classrooms
- Recently departed staff allowed to participate in climate survey from WA State Charter School Commission
 - Question about Elise Albano and request for follow up - was she allowed to participate?
- Questions about Demond's resignation from families of 207
 - Action item for Bev about discussion with Laylah about communication policy around things like this
 - Note about Parent Square communication on this topic - some parents had not received communication or remembered different things (possibly technical issues)
 - Comparison by Karen Biggs of Parent Square to social media, noting that communication on that platform should be considered as such
 - **Broad agreement from parents in attendance agreeing that communication broadly needs work, especially through primary platforms**
 - Specific comments agreeing that language is important and that messaging should not be up for interpretation given varying understandings about a situation
 - Question from Elise Albano - is there a legal ramification for using certain language? Can the school use/not use specific language?
- Action item asking about developing an HR committee between admin, staff, and board
 - Risk management for board, creates paper trail, reduces miscommunication, etc
 - Suggestion to codify some sort of HR committee, especially around hiring

- Clarification around certain policies at PCM
 - Focus on trainings after point raised by Katie Kendrick at previous meeting about tuition reimbursement- what is allowed, how much is covered, etc
 - **General agreement that this should be incorporated into employee handbook**
 - **Note about using clear policy language in communications with community, and regular information sharing with staff/parents around this**
- Discussion around PCM's relationship with WSU Education, local Montessoris, etc (with the interest to renew)
- Volunteering question - **can siblings be included?**
 - **Not clearly answered, some confusion between differences of this year and last year**
- Question about school communication practices between use of Parent Square & Transparent Classroom (i.e. why does the school use more than one communication system?)
 - Clarification around benefits of Transparent Classroom for specific things including pictures, progress reports that align with Montessori practices, etc

6:05 switch from discussion of previous action items

New business

- WA Charters Climate Survey Monday 2/26 in the View Room
 - **Note needs to be sent out about location of surveying**
- Volunteerism ask from Dawna Engler - what was the parent response?
 - Small number of responses, but some parents in attendance noting they missed the communication
 - Some question around FIT for volunteers, Dawna noting that she is still going to work with teachers/volunteers to workshop that
- Family Engagement
 - Question about casual meeting at Lumberyard - is this a good idea?
 - General agreement, wanting to set a date/time
 - **1st Tuesdays of the month at 5:30pm (or later) agreed upon as a good time**
- **New Co-Chair - Lily Thoren!!**
- Discussion with Kamiak about fundraising, how to organize parents, etc
 - **Discussion around AC exhibit as one example, can students be involved with fundraising & in what capacity**
 - Co-ops in Moscow/Pullman discussed
 - Blood Drive hosting as a way to receive funding
 - Scholastic Fair as a way to receive funding
 - Using social media to look at what other PTAs are doing
 - **Glow party / Kiddie rave (?)**

- **Sub-Councils discussion**

- Volunteers for grant-writing/fundraising/financials
 - Finance Council and sub-councils
 - Kaitlin Wolff as chair of financial subcouncil
 - Elise Albano working on sub subcouncil focused on grants
 - Maria Ramos as volunteer
 - Becka Miller-Mcphee as volunteer
 - Subcouncil for anti-bullying proposed
 - Suggestion to focus on positive culture/community more than anti-bullying
 - Remark that PCM will begin using the Second Steps program following PSD.
 - Suggestion to reach out to Kamiak Elementary principal, who has resources including an anti-bullying program with SEL lessons

Final notes: Logistics

- **When is the next meeting?**
 - **2 weeks from 2/22 is Mar 7, 2024(5:30pm)**
- Share data for student interest in clubs
- **Seek communication/clarification around what the end of YMCA on Wednesdays will mean/look like**

End of meeting: 6:40

Jordan is awesome ^_^
