Doss Elementary CAC
January 25, 2024

Please Sign-In

Co-Chairs (Francis & Lande):

- Welcome
- Review of November Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve; approved unanimously
- Approve minutes from November 16, 2023

Principal Sheridan Report:

- Teacher Check-ins
    - Pre-K – Finishing Winter units with Arctic animals, hibernation, etc. Starting transportation unit
    - Kinder – celebrating 100 days next week, wrapping up 3D shapes, starting coins. Next field trip – Inner Space Caverns in Feb.
    - First – Preparing for 101st day of school next week. Just wrapped up MAP fluency testing to flag for dyslexia; in middle of science rotations.
    - DLI – working on Chinese New Year event to share with the whole school, pending parent volunteers
    - 2nd – has cabin fever, reading – finishing making inferences, moving into biographies, writing – going through the writing process, publishing imaginative piece next week, math – multi-step word problems, science – finishing movement and moving to patterns in the sky; geography – working on map skills
    - 3rd – math – fractions; science renewable/non-renewable; reading – figurative language and poetry; focus on kids getting practice on giving evidence for answers.
    - 4th – LA – imaginative writing; just had a publishing party last week; Math – multiplication, division, problem solving; Science focus – soil testing; Music department – jazz concert; young people's concert (2/27)
    - 5th – Math – data analysis unit; science – producers, composers, decomposers; Writing – essays for STARR test; figurative language – learning about Holocaust; Social Studies – events leading to American Revolution

    - SpED – Best buddies community held first event – breakfast with buddies. Program is going really well. Start Special Olympics basketball next couple of weeks. Focus is promoting inclusivity amongst special ed kids who do not spend as much time in general education classes.
    - Sp. Areas – Music – 5th grade choir singing at Austin Spurs game; PE – showcase at end of last semester, lots of parents showed up. Rhythm, dancing, learning about bones. Currently doing muscles and gymnastics.

- 24-25 SY Calendar
    - Approved for next year. First day of school will be August 20th.
- Enroll Austin
    - Important to get as many students enrolled as possible. Helps with staffing.
    - Enrolling in DLI needed by February 6th. Those with older siblings in DLI still need to enroll by deadline.
    - Question about Pre-K acceptance – lots of interest but takes time to vet. Lots of interest – over 100 applied so far.
    - Over 920 at this point this year. Not accepting transfers.
- MLK Parade
    - Postponed due to freezing weather. Doss's role will likely be held off until next year.
- New 5th gr teacher
    - Started in January but not created a new homeroom. Doing some assistance to other classrooms but not disrupting any community.
- MAP Growth
    - Mid-year assessments done in December. Special shoutout to 3rd grade who exceeded growth in reading and math. Kinder exceeded growth in reading.
- Bridges
    - *Highlighted by Todd during PTA section.*
    - Ms. Kent added that this is a new math curriculum which would be the focus curriculum for the coming school year. Has lots of hands on materials (costly).
    - Materials provided by AISD for math are not sufficient, so PTA involvement to help drive curriculum options is key.

PTA Update

- Cultural Heritage Night
    - Huge success
    - Team who put it together worked very hard on graphics; good crowd, 15 countries represented the world, several performances, food, passport stamps for kids.
    - Postponed during pandemic but revived last year. This year we did it in Fall instead of Spring. Allows for meeting of people of different cultures earlier in the year to make connections.
- Holiday Donation Drives

    - Coats for kids, 2nd grade pajama collection, sister school committee shoe drive – 400 pairs of shoes for T.A. Brown. Brown elementary had special event to give the shoes to families.
- Science Fair
    - Over 100 students participated.
    - Just under 20 students going to regionals
    - Kids were very engaged
    - Mrs. Francis – was less work than she thought it would be. Didn't have the tutorials, which actually helped. The video sparked interested. The packet was very helpful in process delivery.

- Spring Party Theme Reveal
    - Revealed Friday 1/19. Vegas theme
    - Over $6,000 in ticket sales already.
- Other – Todd highlighted Bridges Math program – exciting opportunity for Doss to adopt a math curriculum that, in the absence of the district supplying it, the PTA can be in a position to help. Working on costs. Likely in $40-50k range.
    - Mrs. Sheridan is having a phone call with the Bridges team next week. Answering questions about training etc., will work to figure out when/how training/prof development would work.
    - From a budget perspective, next draft is due 1/31. March 21st is when PTA gets approval on the budget.
    - 5th grade has started some work on this – numbers corners; starting small instead of overwhelming.
    - Q: Who paid for it for Davis? Sheridan thinks it was phased in but not sure. Cost would be different for Doss b/c the goal is to apply it all the way down to Pre-K. No other schools do it down to Pre-K.

Comment / Questions:

- Improvements in ADA access, including ADA playground equipment. Next steps is to get quotes for vendors. Process is in motion.

- Leadership – discussed limiting technology during free time and indoor recess. Some kids are passionately against this.

- New tables at lunch are more inclusive. Also, note of appreciation for more structure at lunch.

New Business:

- Next meeting is February 15, 2024

Adjourned:

- Meeting adjourned at 4:16pm