

AC Meeting Notes

4/16/2024

Tari, Karen Duke, Annie Backman, Samantha Snyder Cakir, Tammy, Katherine, Parisa

Principal update: shared with steering team, shared with staff tomorrow, there will be some reductions, SPPS has large budget reduction, will affect SAP.

Want to hear from AC about communication timeline

End of April - final announcements of cut positions

Wolf Ridge 5th grade trip received grants from State and Wolf Ridge

Unsure what the final per child funding ask will be. Questions about whether families will be enthusiastic about paying more than this year's cost of the trip to help fund future years.

MCA testing - reading has happened. Math will happen next week. Approximately 1 hour twice a week. 5th graders will do science first week of May.

Upcoming special events...lots to do in May

Kindergarten new student roundup, April 30th 5-6pm

5th grade graduation, Thursday after Memorial Day

Discussion about ways to communicate events to current families

Family Education Night-Internet Safety at Home

Thoughts about postponing it, possibly to beginning of next year, or sometime in May

Budget presentation planning

Mostly questions about timing and modality

Proposed for Thursday, May 2, 6:30, in person with virtual option

AC Meeting Notes

January 16, 2024

Lisa, Tari HY, Emily C, Karen P, Annie, Samantha, Karen D., Keiko, Parisa, Karen K, Katherine W, Breanna

Principal's Update

- Reading and math assessments in January
- Job embedded professional development
 - Funded with covid relief money
 - Every grade level teacher and some sped and ELL teachers meets with principal/vice principal twice per week to work on curriculum, using data, planning
- No school on Jan 26
 - Professional development for teachers on new writing curriculum
 - Linked with literacy curriculum
- MLL (also known as ELL) staff is changing. Two full time and one half time teacher, but new staff.
- Open house is shifting to during the day. Monday morning, January 22nd.
- Tours have started

Topics for tonight's meeting: Diversity, equity, and inclusion and Special education

- Two resources for DEI: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain and AMAZE "Families All Matter"
- Are there issues with inclusion/bullying of neurotypical children? Do the teachers get involved?
 - There can be issues of bullying and they are attended to by teachers and counselors in a proactive way.
 - Lots of classroom resources that are used from K through 5th grade.
 - Teachers and staff follow the lead of individual students in self-identifying neurodiversity, etc.
 - Parents should feel empowered to talk to teacher about their preference
 - This is all true about a number of characteristics (gender identity, family structure, etc.)
- Questions about how end of covid relief money will affect services (sped, part of social worker funding, etc.)
 - Totally driven by number of students who qualify through IEPs
- Tiers of support for special education
- Trying to provide the "least-restrictive environment" - as much access as possible to the general education curriculum
- Before being referred to special ed team, Student Assistance Team meets to think about interventions before going through formal sped process
- Federal Settings designate how much time a student spends outside of the "normal" classroom environment. SAP only has setting I and II.

AC Meeting Notes

December 12, 2023 5:30pm

Ronnie, Lisa, Karen P., Tari HY, Emily C. Annie, Samantha, Dolly, Karen D., Sayem, Keiko, Ann (nature prek teacher), Katherine

Principal's update

- Upcoming events - recruiting and promoting, talking to prospective parents

- Last Saturday - school choice fair

- Open house scheduled for Monday 1/22, 8am, hoping for better attendance, ability to see the school "in action", looking for volunteers to represent the school community, 5th grade helpers for the open house

- Tours dates and times already posted on website, looking for tour leaders, sign up in WPP and Principal's newsletter

- New student welcome night to be scheduled in May

- Designated school partnership with UMN, student teaching and undergraduate students who are considering teaching, looking for other ways to involve UMN faculty, a group focused on best practices related to technology and teaching has been

How is it going without iPads? For the most part, it is going well. Maybe 5th grade will reevaluate. When is school decision day? February 9th

Science of reading update (SPPS and SAP specifically)

- What is and is not the science of reading

- Synthesis of all of the research

- Big picture message is that many of the most popular teaching methods are not consistent with how children learn to read

- Five big areas

Budget update (general info and timeline)

- "Right sizing" due to loss of ARP dollars that are spent and expiring

- Looking for family input

- Are we able to see how the budget for next year will affect SAP? We don't know yet. District is going through that process. Right now gathering input from community, really focusing on district-level budget priorities.

AC Meeting Notes

October 10, 2023 5:30pm

Attendees: Karen Duke, Katherine, Dolly, Tammy, Crowe, Paulsen, Tari, Kerrin, Annie, Keiko, Ronnie, Lisa, Breanna, JoAnna

Principal Update:

Fully staffed special education team for the first time in a long time!

- Three full time gen ed TAs

- Two special ed TAs

- Bilingual EA

FAST reading assessments are completed and grade level teams are working on data analysis

Data used to put readers into small groups
Small groups starting soon if not already
Data will be gathered again in January

Now looking at data from new math curriculum

Enrollment update

Steady from the start of the year, no major changes
Total of 501 students

Wolf Ridge Update

Appropriateness of Wolf Ridge trip
What concerns have come up from parents over time?
What concerns have come up from staff?
Raised an equity question related to cost and participation data from last 5-6 years
Survey responses continue to come in
What other information do we need to make sure that the input is representative?
A decision will be made by next week.
Discussion of multiple factors for the rest of the meeting.

AC Meeting 9/12/23

Attendees: Annie Backman, Keiko, Karen Paulsen, Brandvik, Hella-Yelk, Crowe, Shriver, Kathryn Ward, Duke, Samantha Cakir, Breanna, Osob, Dolly, Tammy

-Welcome and Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves

-Principal Update

Nature discovery PreK update: two classrooms that were formerly 2nd grade, morning and afternoon class, smaller than originally hoped, one teacher, two para professionals, teamed up with Discovery Club, fenced hill and outside space for preK, hoping for more kids and successful program

Enrollment: started off with four kindergartens, but didn't have enough students, Ms. Austin moved to second grade based on seniority, 20 total classrooms, three K classes with some room. Reason is unknown, lost some students to East African magnet but there are just fewer school aged children in St. Paul in general. Hoping to continue to add students. Still have 10 spots even with three rooms. Since teacher was already reassigned, hopeful that there will be no budget impact in October. Fifth grade is very large, fourth grade is right on target, third grade (covid kinder) is small, second and first grade numbers are good. No split classrooms.

Staffing update: new art teacher (Mara Shriver, in attendance), new fifth grade teacher (Maria Roth), new teaching assistants, new special ed teacher (half time), new library staff (full time, educational assistant)

Library update: increased focus on library, keeping books moving, keeping books fresh and relevant, into kids' hands, new staff will also be ipad manager, assisting Ms. Wilson (technology). Library walks are still up to the teacher.

iPad update: iPads will not be going home this year in any grade. Special projects or the threat of bad weather are an exception. For 5th grade, there may be more instances of them bringing them home partly to prepare for middle school. In general, staff are trying to be more deliberate and coordinated about how iPads are being used.

-AC plans for the coming school year

History of AC over the last several years. Review of the purpose and goals of AC. We were thinking about making a list of monthly topics and promoting AC meetings as being a way to learn about particular topics. AC has traditionally been in charge of recruiting and finding volunteers for open house, choice fair, etc.

List of topics:

- Reading curriculum
- Right to read video
- Behavior
- Transition to middle school
- School board rep
- Assistant supt
- Screen time/internet safety
- Appropriate technology use
- How are we approaching DEI in the schools? Amaze program
- Library purchases/input
- Test scores/data
- Special education/students with disabilities/504 plans