

Minutes Inter-American Magnet School Local School Council meeting, January 5, 2011

LSC Members Present: Vernita Vallez, Jose Torres, Hugo Escobar, Monica Arce, Karen Barbour, Margaret Aguilar

LSC Members Absent: Luis Vera, Ana Camino, Marisol Morales, Cynthia Ramos

Others Present: Dulce Ayala, Michael Fischer,

Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm. Karen Barbour was selected by the attendees to act in the place of Luis Vera, Council president, who was unable to attend.

It was noted that the Board has directed the teachers and staff to select a representative from the school support staff to make an additional member on the LSC thus raising the number required for a quorum to 7. However there has not been an election or selection process in place to choose this individual and the Board's decision will be voted on in March. So the understanding is that the decision is not in force at this point.

Minutes from many previous meetings were unavailable for approval. Karen will e-mail Cliff (who has officially resigned as secretary) to forward the minutes of past meetings to her to be posted & approved. It was noted that we need to approve minutes within one month of the meeting, i.e. at the next meeting. We agreed that our goal will be to have a draft of the minutes written and circulated by e-mail within a week of the meeting so that they will be able to be approved at the next Council meeting.

No one from the audience participated in the time available for public comment.

Reports

Principal's report:

-The Family Science Night was a huge success. Over 120 families with children attended. The science activities focused on Astronomy. The LSC also had a potluck social that night, which was organized by Ana Camino, sponsored by the LSC, and was very well attended.

The next school night will be a Math Night on February 17th with the potluck sponsored by the Upper Grades Committee, which will need some assistance with planning.

-Parent Volunteers: Dr. Vallez reports there are 104 parents who are actively volunteering at this time. She notes that this number changes as some parents volunteer for one activity.

-Future events:

* Wednesday, January 12, 12:00 – 1:30: the Parent Volunteer Potluck Luncheon. Ms. Villapando will be giving a talk on how parents can contribute.

*Friday, January 14, 9:00 – 10:00: Parent Leaders Work Group

*Thursday, January 20, 9:00 – 10:30: Parent Advisory Council Meeting

*Saturday, January 22, 10:30 – 1:30: Communications and Conflict Resolution Training. Karen responded to a question about the topic of this session by noting it came from the parent retreat in October as a method that could be used to de-escalate a situation where the feelings were high and allow for more communication between persons. This followed some rather contentious parent meetings and suggestions that the parent training might be helpful in facilitating communication. There will be a bilingual trainer involved in this workshop.

Thursday, February 3, 9:00 – 10:30: SEP meeting

-Monica expressed a need to increase parent involvement in the school. She suggested that the teachers develop a “master sheet” describing the available areas and tasks for parents to volunteer as well as the community wide tasks which would involve parents in areas beyond their child’s classroom within the school. Vernita will survey teachers for their needs. The PAC will be involved in developing volunteer opportunities for parents.

-Pat Taylor, Chief of Operations and John Cooke, both from the main office of CPS, visited IAMS on January 4th. They saw the parking garage facility, new office space and the school. They were both very impressed with the school and will have a better appreciation of our school & mission.

-Vernita gave an update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the parking lot contract. Vendors have been invited to bid and will be received for the next 2 – 3 weeks. The final decision will be in 3 – 5 weeks. We are hoping it will be decided by the beginning of the spring baseball season.

- The minor violations found by the health inspection have been resolved. One involved paint damage in the cafeteria from the tables hitting the walls. Hugo offered to involve art groups from the community to repaint the walls.

-Vernita provided the LSC members with a copy of the budget. She discussed funding of the playground recess supervision. Also she discussed the Afterschool program.

-Student fees have had mixed results. The payments have not been uniform although some money has been raised. The major benefit is that the fee is only paid once a year and is supposed to cover everything, e.g. field trips, etc. Nancy, in the office, only has to be responsible one time to count and account for the money, instead of many times during the year. This utilizes her time much more efficiently. The Council discussed modifying the rates for families with more than one child and using the list of families who qualify for the free and reduced lunch program to determine families who would pay a reduced fee.

LRE: No report

SIPAAA: The year-end review will be done at the end of January and will be presented to PAC & the LSC at the February meeting

PAC: the PAC cluster meeting will be January 12 and the organizational meeting will be January 20. Michael (PAC secretary) requested a “all-call” to all of the families from the school to notify them of the meetings. Each of the parent committees will have a Mission letter. An LSC member should attend, as the LSC is part of the PAC. There is an budget line item for parent training and the PAC will help to define what the parents want this money spent for. On February 9th from 10:00 – 12 noon, IAMS will host the PACs from Cluster 1 which includes 32 schools. Pamela Price from the central office will assist with logistics.

Michael also brought up the issue that we should identify and ask local businesses for donations for the school. We need to identify who in the school will take the responsibility to coordinate this effort, which requires a consistent, organized and responsible approach. Tracking who has been asked and who has responded as well as sending formal acknowledgements of donations made will be some of the responsibilities of the coordinator. FELE was identified as one of the parent groups which is doing some of this work but we should also make efforts for the small donations. The parent volunteer coordinator was suggested to coordinate this. A binder located in the office to help the coordinator keep a record of

all of the above was suggested. PAC also suggested using funds for training costs for the actual training of parent work groups and provide for the food costs from donations.

BAC: The parents need training to define their role as volunteers and what they are can and cannot do. The next meeting of the BAC will be on Tuesday, February 8 at 9:00am. The March meeting will be in the evening. Our movie on January 14 will be "Despicable Me," which we hope we can show in Spanish.

SEP: No report as the first meeting will be in February.

Upper Grade committee: No report

The 8th Grade parents are sponsoring an adult Valentine's Dance fundraising for the 8th Grade Washington trip.

There will be a concert on Sunday, February 27th at the school. We will have Sones de Mexico and we might have a flamenco group.

FELE: no report.

Old Business: Cliff Meece has resigned as secretary. He will continue as a parent representative. Karen also reminded us that we need to review the meeting attendance records of members to make sure the requirements for attendance are being met.

New Business: A timeline for the Principal Evaluation will be presented at the February LSC meeting. Council members should review the 2010 evaluation form to be prepared for the discussion.

Vernita remarked on the beautiful art work now mounted around the building.

Karen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Margaret seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.