March 23, 2015   5:45 PM

Linden STEAM Academy Library

Meeting Minutes:

**March 11, 2014 6:50 AM Linden STEAM Academy Library**

Attendees:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sarah Boswell  Richard Bransfield  Diana Buonopane  Laura Degelmann  David DeRuosi  Susan Goldstein Fghani | Present  Present  Present  Present  Absent  Present | John Froio  Deborah Gesualdo  Marguerite Gonsalves  Rachana Gray  Jocelyn Ken  Alisha King  Judy Leisk | Present  Present  Present  Present  Present  Present  Absent | Sonia Miller  Conrad Mitala  Elaine Rittershaus  Franklin Shearer  Susan Terban  Leonard Young | Present  Present  Present  Present  Present  Absent |

1. Public Comment/Connections  (**5 min**)
   * A comment was made regarding the impact parents can make when they write to city hall regarding issues in our schools. An example of the school roof was brought up. Because of the parents who wrote letters and called, the city has taken notice of the leaky roof and is working on a plan to repair it.
2. Vote to approve February Meeting Minutes (**5 min**)

**Action Items:** Rachana Gray to make requested corrections.

**Motion to accept minutes based on corrections:** Sonia Miller

**Seconded:** Sarah Boswell

3. Scheduling of Professional Development Days 2015/2016 (**10 min**)

The district is working on changing their professional development days similar to what we are proposing to do.

Vote on proposal.

**Motion:** Table the vote until we learn what the district is going to do: Richard Bransfield

**Seconded:** Jocelyn Ken

4. Old Business (**30 min**)

a)      Teacher Work Day –

* This currently sits with the union and is waiting for an informational session to be set up with teachers.

b)      Parameters for the make-up and size of sub-committees, ad-hoc committee,

**Action Item:** Alisha King will come up with a proposal. We will have this in place for the June meeting when we elect the executive officers and select subcommittees.

c)      Update on possible future school visits

* The Elliot School (located in the North end) will allow us to visit but will have to wait until after PARCC
* A comment was made that we should find out when their governing board meets and sit in on that.

d)      2015 Governing Board elections

* Suggested edits were made for the parent election letter and form.

**Action Item:** Rachana Gray will make the edits and have the letter distributed for the parent elections.

e)    Continue Center-Based Learning in grades 6-8

* Suggestion was made to find other middle schools that are using centers and copy them.
* We have a consultant who could help us.
* There is a general feeling that district might be mandating it in the future

4. Subcommittee Reports (**15 min**)

a)      Curriculum & Instruction

* Tackle science and Engineering first:
  + In order to get a better grasp of what is currently be taught by each grade, the committee set up a chart for each grade. They asked teachers to write what they are currently teaching with topics and objectives.
  + They will compare that to the proposed standards.
  + Kindergarten filled in theirs as an example.
  + It should be common topics not what one individual class does.

b)      Family & Community Engagement

* They are reviewing the parent survey and are working on action items based on the responses.
* They will ask Title one how they get translations for their fliers.

c)      Meeting & Operations

* No new meeting

5. New Business (**45 min**)

a) Incorporation of STEAM and other academics into afterschool program

* The afterschool program is funded through very strict grants. We may no longer be eligible for those grants because of the testing scores of our kids.
* The registration for channel surfing is low so any programs implemented will not reach many middle school kids.
* The Principal is looking at other options in case the grant is lost.

b) Summer Program

* Discussion was skipped to due to time.

c) AEAP Program

* Concerns were made that the program is not challenging enough for some students.
* There is no clear testing method for admittance or retention
* The nonverbal test was too expensive for us.

6. Principal’s Report (**10 min**)

* The principal reviewed the status of the PARCC testing.
  + Overall it is going well.
  + There is less paperwork and counting required by the staff.
  + Because of the number of computers needed for the exam, the computer classes and library classes were not held so the rooms could be used for testing.

7. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn:** Sonia Miller

**Seconded:** Richard Bransfield