

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Annual Organization Meeting

Minutes completed by: Lynda Gibson

Date: December 6, 2016

Time: 8:45AM-10:00 AM

Total Present: 19

Sarah Colella

Celia Bergman

Maria Ciccone

Sonya Benham

Lloy Johnston

Carmer Karmuth

Kristen Hunter

Celita Castro

Rachinda Dini

Rose Buzo

Margarita Pimentel

Julian Midari

Maaryan Nauman

Amina Sadik

Vicki Inglezo

Sonjuaono Salazor

Catherine Korda (president)

Jessica Espinosa (correspondence secretary)

Lynda Gibson (recording secretary)

Peterson administrators present: Principal Kate Kane and Resident Principal Karem Gomez

Refreshments were provided and Spanish translation was provided by Karem Gomez

There were 2 key agenda items for this meeting:

1. Update on the budget issues for Peterson and CPS
2. An overview of the Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP)

details for all agenda items are provided below

- The call to order and welcome was completed by Catherine Korda.
- Principal Kate Kane provided an update on the budget for the current fiscal year. In response to recent veto of the budget by Governor Rauner, there is a possibility that there will be more cuts to funding. The Senate has already decided to override the veto and we are currently waiting for the House to override the veto. Parents were encouraged to call or

send letters to the governor or representative using the CPS.edu/equality website. Kane offered to assist parents with accessing the website at the end of the meeting.

- Principal Kate Kane reviewed the Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP), which is the strategic plan for Peterson outlining what the school is focusing on within the course of 2 years in order to get from where we are now to where we want to be. The CIWP team consists of administrators, teachers, parents, and community members. For Peterson, the CIWP provides a degree of focus for teachers and staff, a way to assess progress, and clear objectives for what the school is working on. The three key areas of the CIWP are:
 - Curriculum
 - Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS)/Problem Solving
 - Culture for Learning
- Parents were invited to discuss in groups questions/concerns regarding the three areas of CIWP. Feedback and responses to the questions were provided by Principal Kane. Key questions asked by parents included:
 - Does curriculum development keep in mind the transition to high school and at what grade/time does preparation for high school begin?
 - What happens if no funding is available for the social studies curriculum?
 - Is it possible to have student input on curriculum development?
 - How do parents know what students are learning throughout the year aside from attending curriculum night?
 - What is the focus/topic(s) that are covered in history and social studies?
 - If the current classroom instruction style is not working for a child, how should the parent respond/who should the parent contact?
 - With sometimes large class sizes, can teachers realistically implement the MTSS area of CIWP plan?
- Reminders during meeting:
 - Winter Gear Swap: winter clothes available for parents that may want to swap/pick up winter clothes/boots for students
 - “Hate Has No Home Here” signs are available
- Follow-Up Issues from previous meeting(s):
 - During the last PAC meeting, a few parents expressed concern regarding difficulty getting in contact with teachers. In response, a handout will be provided during the upcoming PTA meeting which will include the name of every teacher at Peterson and the best way to contact them.
- Upcoming PAC Meetings/Events:
 - Literacy Night, Jan 26th
- Upcoming Peterson/School-Wide Events:
 - PTA Meeting, Dec 13th 8:45AM
 - Movie Night (Charlie Brown Peanuts Movie), Dec 15th 5:00PM
 - Peterson Curriculum Night, Spring 2017