

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting

Minutes completed by: Lynda Gibson

Date: April 4, 2017

Time: 8:45AM-9:45AM

Total Present: 22

Megan Trinter, Helen, Emily Berman, Ritt Lin, Melanie Shank, Judy Edstron, Lloy B Johnston, Sabiha Vohra, Amina Sadjk, Maryam Nauman, Erin Oleniczak, Shari Kittaka, Rachida Dini, Sarah Finch, Jan Dixon, Maria Ciccone, Vicki Inglezou, Sanjuana Salazar, Chand Nasim, Jessica Espinosa (secretary), Lynda Gibson (secretary), Anita Gabor (vp)

Peterson administrators and staff present: Kate Kane (Principal), Scott Topel (Assistant Principal), Karen Gomez (Resident Principal), Chuck Deters (Technology Coordinator), Amy Washington (Behavior and Student Support), Michael Coleman (School Counselor), Carina Martino (School Counselor)

Refreshments were provided

The call to order and welcome was completed by Principal Kate Kane.

There were 2 key agenda items for this meeting:

1. Presentation to parents regarding *differentiation at Peterson* provided by Principal Kane
2. Update of upcoming Peterson events

Summary of Differentiation Presentation

Differentiation describes the process used to approach teaching and learning for students of differing abilities in the same class. It also highlights a teachers' ability to act responsively to a learners needs. Differentiation is important and relevant at Peterson because there is not really a bell curve in student abilities. 50% of Peterson students are below grade level and 50% of Peterson students are above grade level.

- The goals of this presentation were to provide a clear definition of differentiation, explain how differentiation helps learners, show why use of differentiation matters at Peterson, explain what it looks like and give examples, and review common misconceptions about differentiation
- The presentation was interactive and included group discussion and pairing parents together to discuss their own experiences with differentiation
- The four principles/characteristics of differentiation are: flexibility, ongoing assessment, respectful activities, and collaboration in learning

- The elements of differentiation are: *content* (such as picking books that are a good fit), *process* (daily five, read to self/partner, math with computer/partner), *technology* (RazKids, Front Row), *product* (different goals to meet), and *student characteristics* (readiness, learning profile, interests)
- Parents were shown a video created by Mr. Deters which gave examples of differentiation used in Peterson classrooms

Parent and Staff Q & A:

Parent Questions/Comments: how do teachers meet the needs of all students, it seems that there is less flexibility with higher grades and teachers have to follow one curriculum, are students aware of difference in learning abilities, how does differentiation work with gifted students

Administrator Answers/Feedback:

- There is ongoing assessment to understand where each student is
- Groups in classrooms are constantly changing and grouping is not only based on ability but similar learning styles (individual, group, with teacher, etc.) as well
- Support for gifted and talented students (those with evidence of high achievement in certain areas) is also done using differentiation
- When assessing student progress, Peterson admin and staff look at student growth (regardless of where you start...how well are you growing)

- Upcoming Peterson/School-Wide Events:
 Prospective Parent Sessions- 4/6/17 at 9AM and 4/18/17 at 6PM
 8th Grade bake sale during report card pick up on 4/19/17 (need \$800 more for all students to be covered)
 Kindergarten registration begins 4/17/17