

# Valencia Elementary School Site Council Minutes

November 18, 2008

**Members Present:** Dianna Higginbotham, Rene Roberts, Susan Perez, Nancy Casterson, T.J. Miller, Dawn Binder, Rosalind San Felipe, Kim De Serpa

**1. Call to order** by Rene Roberts at 7:04

**2. Introductions/Additions to the Agenda:** I know there was one, but I didn't it – oops.

**3. Approval of Minutes:** Dawn made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Rosalind seconded the motion.

## **4. Discussion Agenda**

*a. Curriculum – Writing:* Teachers are working on improving grade level meetings – trying to move toward becoming a Professional Learning Community(PLC). (Focus is on writing.) Staff recently looked at writing proficiency across grade levels. Diana felt this was very positive work. The staff is planning based on looking at writing data. Next step is to look at what proficient writing looks like, and determine how to intervene with students who are not succeeding.

*b. Next Site Council & All-Zones meeting:* Next Site Council meeting will be a joint meeting with Home and School Club on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

*c. School Plan:* Dianna reviewed *Assessing Student Learning* p. 4, from the school plan. This section of the plan focuses on assessment and teacher collaboration to use data. She shared several print outs from Data Director showing the kind of classroom level data that teachers are looking at. We are doing a good job implementing this section of the school plan. A discussion followed that focused on the new math adoption. Teachers are finding the new math materials very difficult due to the amount of material to cover and the reading level required. Providing interventions for struggling students is still a challenge.

*d. Budget-District & School:* Dianna shared a handout with the district budget for the next three years. If funding continues as is, PVUSD will have a budget deficit of approx. \$9,000,000. Things are not looking good at the state level. If the state cuts \$300 per student mid-year, the district will have to cut \$5,000,000. Discussions have begun regarding what kinds of cuts would have to be made. The Valencia budget still has \$90,000, however the district is not approving expenditures other than subs.

## **5. Reports**

*a. Staff:*

T.J. Miller – the playground has been a huge hit; There were quite a few assessments, both teachers and students are tired; This year district writing assessments were mandated; This year teachers could use digital report cards. Fifth and Sixth graders have had a workshop series with Michael Catz. **Is this spelling correct?**

Nancy Casterson- kids love the new playground. The assessments have been tedious; The primary classes have just completed eight weeks of drama with a SPECTRA artist.

*b. Principal:* Dianna agreed with everything T.J and Nancy said. The bathrooms should be completed after the winter holiday.

*c. Home & School Club:* See attached update from Karen Kerber-Smith

*d. North Zone Advisory:* A task group formed to look at a possible curricular focus for the North Zone shared their recommendations at the last meeting. The group shared student achievement data for English Language Arts, Writing and Mathematics. This data was disaggregated to include only North Zone students. The task group recommended that the North Zone focus on supporting all schools to increase use of teacher collaboration and support efforts to become Professional Learning Communities.

*e. Grants – Playground Update:* Waiting for receipt of monies before starting phase 2 (swings and plaque). Kim Ferrell is looking into getting more benches. Benches/picnic tables are included in the beautification efforts that would be funded through the auction.

*6. Plusses/Deltas:* Good meeting; we are fortunate to have a grant writer among us; the handouts are very informative tonight;

*7. February Items/Burning Issues:* We will have a December meeting with Home and School Club on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Dawn would like to hear an update on the traffic (primarily at morning drop off). She will follow up and provide us an update at the next meeting.

*8. Adjournment:* Meeting was adjourned at 8:35.