

# **BLT Minutes April 4, 2011**

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

BLT parent reps: Amy Efroymsen, Corrie Kahn, Margaret Bolger, Bobby Mullins, Kelsey Fatland, Lisa Bogen,  
BLT staff reps: Mike Howard, Linda Cutler, Carrie Wheeler, Lyon Terry  
Principal: Christine Helm  
PTA co-chair: Melissa Denke  
Visitors: Liz Olson (Principal trainer), Phyllis Rosen (parent)

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH MEETING**

Lisa motioned to approve the minutes and Mike seconded.

## **DOCUMENTING SCHOOL ENRICHMENT GOALS – FOLLOW UP**

Prior to the meeting Bobby had emailed BLT members several sample CSIP enrichment goals. The question at hand was whether or not the BLT supports adding enrichment goals (for example: PE, music, art, performance arts, world cultures, environmental awareness) into the CSIP.

Lisa and Lyon each indicated they would like to see these goals in the CSIP. Lyon said he supported representing the “whole child” in the document.

Mike added that the 4/5 staff did not think it needed to be included in a formal CSIP document because they are already strongly committed to making these things happen and felt like it didn't need to be formalized. Instead the 4/5 staff voiced concern about how to address required topics within the already limited time constraints due to heavy enrichment scheduling. He emphasized that it was not a lack of commitment on the part of the staff – just a feeling that it doesn't need to become more formalized. He then read from notes summarizing his meeting with the 4/5 staff.

The discussion continued with other staff who said they would enjoy more flexibility to participate in enrichment that fits their schedules and coursework. Also, for the older grades there is a strong interest in allowing the kids to teach one another when they have special skills or talents that would benefit others (i.e. dance or art). Staff members welcome the opportunity to allow the kids to lead other kids and showcase their interests and skills.

Carrie shared sample CSIP enrichment goals created by Cheryl Parks and Leslie DeJong (for PE) and Elaine Cooper (for music) for the 2011/12 school year:

### 2011/12 SMART Goal for Physical Education

- The average score in the mile run for students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will increase from 61% to 70% in their Physical Education assessments. The people responsible for this goal are Cheryl Parks and Leslie DeJong.

## 2011/12 SMART Goal for Physical Education

- 85% of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will pass the 5th grade CPBA state assessment for music. The person responsible for this goal is Elaine Cooper

Q: By adding these CSIP goals is there a firm commitment to saving music and PE for PCP time.

A: Both Rich and Lyon responded that staff would most likely prefer to maintain more flexibility than that in case other interesting options comes along.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of goals you can have in the CSIP?

A: Christine responded that there was not, but reminded the group that the Principal and staff members are held accountable for anything that is in the CSIP. So we would want to be realistic about how many goals we could actually manage successfully. Plus, some enrichment goals may be harder to add to the CSIP because there is no one specifically named to manage, monitor, measure and report on those goals. PE and music are examples of good enrichment goals to add because we already have staff members who are dedicated to supporting them.

The conversation turned to how enrichment is scheduled. Staff would like to see more of the enrichment scheduling and assembly planning done in advance so they can plan their lessons to compliment those programs. For example, when enrichment programs support the theme of our world cultures event, staff members are more able to successfully incorporate it into their lesson planning, and that's when it all works best.

There is an Enrichment Committee of two (Lisa Reeves and Elizabeth Hester) who are tasked with trying to coordinate the scheduling and support of the various enrichment programs.

The idea emerged that if we had a more coordinated, pre-planned calendaring session that incorporated the needs of the whole school as well as individual grades there might be more flexibility and efficiencies. For example there are all-school assemblies now that are not always appropriate for all grades (i.e. the bullying curriculum which felt too young for some of the older grades). Breaking out assemblies into grade-level targeted topics could be helpful on a variety of levels (crowd control, student interest, lesson planning, etc.) One example of how this works now is the way Elaine Cooper has scheduled her evening choir performances (K/1, 2/3, and 4/5 all on different nights).

Lyon made the suggestion that we create a sub-committee that includes representatives from BLT, PTA, the Enrichment committee, the Principal and a staff representative from each grade level to map out the 2011/12 enrichment programming (including assemblies and grade-level specific topics). The deliverable from the group would be a month-by-month, grade-level specific enrichment programming calendar.

Margaret volunteered to coordinate the process. The goal will be to have the calendar as complete as possible by the June BLT meeting. BLT staff reps will start talking to other staff members about it right away to bring them on board and get them thinking about what they would like to see.

In closing, Bobby proposed adding the PE and music goals to the 2011/12 CSIP, Lyon seconded and Christine agreed it was a god idea. Carrie will go back to Cheryl and Elaine to get their final input and commitment and report back to the BLT.

## **BLT RECRUITMENT EFFORTS FOR 2011/12**

Bobbie emailed a draft announcement for the newsletter to the BLT for review and approval. The announcement was approved with one minor change.

Applications will be accepted through the April 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. The BLT will review applications and vote on membership at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Parent reps will also send out the announcement a week after the newsletter publication to help generate interest and to make sure we connect with as many potential candidates as possible.

## **AUCTION REPORT**

The auction was a huge success this year. Although we had fewer attendees at the auction this year (145 people) we actually had the highest grossing event per attendee. The auction grossed \$125,000 which nets out to about \$100,000 for the school. That puts us in good shape for the 2011/12 school year. The auction will most likely be held a little earlier next year (although still in the spring) to work more effectively with the overall budgeting cycle.

Based on the final fundraising tally there will be a surplus of approximately \$35,000 to be used for a "staff wish" program. All staff members have until Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to submit requests to the PTA for things they would like to have funded.

## **UPDATED BUDGET REPORT**

Based on the final auction numbers Christine will be asking the PTA for some additional funding for 2011/12 school year to pay for certificated tutoring, recess supervision, and hourly tutoring. The revised budget will use discretionary money a bit differently. Christine will continue to work on the final budget revisions and submit her "ask" to the PTA by Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

Parent reps sent the first of what is to be regular, monthly email communication to families in their represented groups. The email included the BLT April agenda and requests for feedback on the agenda items. There was some limited initial feedback which included:

- Requests to be removed from the list,
- Appreciation of the enhanced communication effort, and
- One question regarding whether or not the school has ever considered participating in the Seattle Public Library Global Reading Challenge (information at: [http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience\\_children\\_global](http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience_children_global) ).

Christine will see if there are notes regarding past consideration of the program and report back to the BLT in May.

## **PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR APRIL BLT MEETING**

- Welcome and Celebrations (All)
- Approve minutes from April's meeting
- Hiring committee for Assistant Principal role (Christine)
- BLT recruitment efforts for 2011/12 – replacing three parent reps (All)
- Feedback/concerns collected from the Lawton community (All)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.