

BLT Minutes

June 6, 2011

IN ATTENDANCE

BLT parent reps: Amy Efroymsen, Margaret Bolger, Bobby Mullins, Kelsey Fatland, Lisa Bogen, Tom Bolger, Kara Palmer Johnson,
BLT staff reps: Mike Howard, Carrie Wheeler, Lyon Terry, Rich Conner, Linda Cutler
Principal: Christine Helm

WELCOME

Welcome to incoming parent representatives Tom Bolger, Kara Palmer Johnson, and Scott Schliebner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY MEETING

Christine suggested one small change needed to be made to the May minutes.

HIRING UPDATE

Christine reported that Lawton had posted 5 different open positions that fall under two different hiring categories.

Two of the open positions are to fill the vacancies of Steve Reddy and Elizabeth Hensley who will be on leave for one year. Due to the fact that the person hired for these types of vacancies will be offered a one-year contract, the job was posted to both the internal and external hiring pools. Annmarie Eppley has been hired for the 2nd grade position and Christa Kelly has been hired for the 5th grade position.

Candidates were interviewed from the internal pool of applicants for the other three open positions (the new 5th grade class, Mike Howard's 4th grade position, and Connie Locke's 1st grade position.) Offers were made to three candidates, however none was accepted. Tom Bolger questioned why the offers had been declined and Christine reported that two of the candidates accepted jobs at schools closer to their homes and one accepted a position at her child's school.

Christine reported that she would be attending a Job Fair, with the new Assistant Principal Neil Gerrans, for all displaced teachers the next day (6/7) where she would interview candidates to try to find those who would be a good match for Lawton. If the jobs remain open after the Job Fair, displaced teachers could be placed into the open positions or the hiring team will interview applicants over the summer.

BLT Parent Representatives Constituent Designations

After discussing the effectiveness of the current designations (two K-2 parent reps., two 3-5 parent reps, one community liaison, and one rep for the Spectrum and Special Needs groups), the decision was made that each parent representative should represent one grade level. This will hopefully make communication with constituents more efficient and effective.

5th Grade - Amy Efroymsen

4th Grade – Kelsey Fatland

3rd Grade – Corrie Kahn
2nd Grade – Scott Schliebner.
1st Grade – Tom Bolger
Kindergarten – Kara Palmer Johnson

Kelsey offered to abstain from voting and would take over the responsibilities of the community liaison. (Traditionally, one parent representative has been a non-voting member of BLT.)

Amy has offered to be the BLT chair.

Teacher Representatives for next year are TBD.

STAFF PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mike and Rich presented the results of a poll that was taken at a recent staff meeting regarding professional development that the staff is interested in for next year. The topics that received the most votes were the following:

- **Differentiated Instruction**
- **Technology Training** – on incorporating use of IPADs and new computers, on use of technology for reports and presentations, and on the new district program School Fusion
- **Reader's Workshop Training**

Christine said that these topics will be addressed first during the specified professional development times (early dismissal days and professional development days.) However, she noted that due to the state budget cuts, some of the professional development time might be cut. The school district and the teacher's union will negotiate the decrease in funding and where the cuts should be made over the summer and then the professional development hours will be adjusted if necessary.

Christine also reported that in addition to next school year's professional development, at least five teachers will be attending either Readers Workshop training or Writers Workshop training over the summer and at least three teachers will be attending Math training.

Lisa reminded us that the Allstate contest will be closing this Friday, 6/10, and we will hopefully know soon whether or not we have won a \$10,000 prize. This money could be used to pay for more professional development.

Master Calendar

Margaret handed out an excel spreadsheet detailing a master calendar of events from this school year (2010-2011) and next year (2011-2012.) She has worked closely with Laura Thomas, Carrie Wheeler, and PTA members to get this started. It is currently organized by category of events. Some events still need to be added to this document. In the fall this will be incorporated on Microsoft Outlook calendar so teachers and staff will be able to access it from the computers in their rooms.

Carrie reported that she and Elaine Cooper are working on the concert dates for next year. They have decided that the concerts will be for one grade band at a time to ease congestion in the Commons and to make it easier for Elaine to schedule extra practices when necessary.

CSIP

Bobby thanked Carrie Wheeler for her work on adding in the music and visual arts sections to the CSIP. He stressed that the CSIP was still lacking details regarding how Lawton differentiates learning for all students (special education, general education, and spectrum.)

Christine responded that there is very little flexibility in how Lawton can state its school goals since the district tells the schools what their goals should be. The reasoning behind this is to help the district create some alignment across all the schools in the district.

Lyon remarked that, as a result, the CSIP doesn't clearly differentiate Lawton from other schools.

Tom Bolger suggested that perhaps another document could be created that would be more useful in clearly articulating Lawton's commitment to differentiated learning. Perhaps this could be even a one-page document that articulates specific strategies and salient focus points.

OTHER TOPICS

Amy suggested we keep the BLT meetings on the same day and time for next school year. The BLT will meet the first Monday of every month. However, the first meeting of next school year will take place on the second Monday of September.

Margaret made three suggestions for next year. First, she suggested that since the meetings always run over that the time be changed from 3:30-5:00 to 3:30-5:30. Secondly, she suggested that BLT should place greater emphasis on updating the CSIP and evaluating the budget as these topics tend to be glossed over due to tight deadlines. Lastly, she suggested that the BLT should assign each person a specific role to focus on for the year to make the meeting time more effective.

Christine asked that we look at how BLT can have more of a role in supporting professional development. Carrie suggested that BLT could help find the people to provide the professional development. Lisa offered to talk to the Apple support services to follow up on the offer of free iPad training for the teachers.

Kelsey motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bobby second the motion.