

## **BLT Minutes May 2nd, 2011**

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

BLT parent reps: Amy Efroymsen, Corrie Kahn, Margaret Bolger, Bobby Mullins, Kelsey Fatland, Lisa Bogen,  
BLT staff reps: Mike Howard, Carrie Wheeler, Lyon Terry, Rich Conner, Peter Hubbard  
Principal: Christine Helm

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL MEETING**

Kelsey motioned to approve the minutes and Carrie seconded.

### **2011-2012 BLT CANDIDATES**

Six parents expressed interest in serving on the BLT next year. Three of them submitted applications for the three open parent positions (Bobby, Lisa and Margaret are leaving), **Scott Schliebner** – parent of a first grader, **Kara Johnson** – parent of a first grader and incoming kindergartener for next year and **Tom Bolger** – parent of a second grader and kindergartener. The BLT reviewed their applications and confirmed that each group (k-2, 3-5 and spectrum/special needs) would be represented next year with the new BLT make-up. Bobby motioned to approve the above three candidates and Kelsey second the motion. Bobby will contact the applicants and welcome them to the BLT.

Bobby also announced that **Amy Efroymsen** has graciously agreed to chair the BLT next year. Thank you, Amy!

### **STAFF PROFESIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The BLT staff representatives met with their counterparts to select and prioritize what professional development topics they would like to focus on next year. They reported the following:

- **Differentiated Instruction Training and Teaching Accelerated/Gifted Learners.** This was a priority of all staff groups and consistent with the Lawton Staff Commitments, generated in the CAS team plan. Kelsey recommended this area of professional development happen at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year as it would help address some of the other topic areas listed below. Bobby also felt it should happen at the beginning of the year to help reassure parents of students in the Spectrum program. Christine agreed and acknowledged the training is already planned. Margaret suggested this be communicated to the Lawton community next Fall.
  
- **Classroom Management** of more challenging/disruptive students

- **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** and integration of reading programs (specifically Hough Mifflin and Pegasus)
- **Reading Training** on reading assessments and non-fiction instruction
- **“Comprehension Tool Kit” Training** (K-2 kit supplied by the PTA)
- **Planning Time for Curriculum Mapping** and revisiting the standards. Rich reported noticing some discrepancies with the timing of instruction during the school year (based on the standards) and when it was being assessed on the MAP. Christine said she would follow up with him on this as it concerned her.
- **Integrated Environmental and Sustainability Learning Standards-** Peter presented a proposal for training on this topic (see attached doc.) The BLT then discussed ways of implementing these standards. It was suggested Lawton curriculum map the adopted 2009 state standards into what we are currently doing, i.e. World Cultures and Science Fair, via integrated project based learning. The BLT supported the idea of using a “real life” issue as a basis for generating a learning project.

After the topics were listed, Christine expressed concern about taking on too much in one given year. She acknowledged it would be great to do them all but, wanted to be realistic in what could be accomplished and done really well. She will ask the staff prioritize these professional development items and suggest resources for training at the next staff meeting.

The BLT then discussed low cost means of acquiring professional development. Christine reported she would help with the training on some of the topic areas, i.e. Reader’s Workshop, Comprehension Tool Kit training. Lyon proposed “book studies” across grade levels on the various topics. The participants would then present their findings to the rest of the staff.

Bobby asked if the PTA funds for Writer’s Workshop were still available and if so, could they be repurposed for staff professional development. Christine was not certain, but thought that money had been moved into discretionary funds.

Margaret asked how much money each teacher was granted a year for professional development. Christine reported she has one day of substitute coverage budgeted for each staff member next year. The staff is also welcome to use two personal leave days per year and/or they can negotiate with other staff to combine their days if attending a longer conference is desired.

## **2011-2012 Staff Changes and Hiring**

Christine was pleased to report that an Assistant Principal was hired for next year. His name is Neil Gerrans and he brings to Lawton a rich background in math and science as well as education. Additionally, five new teachers will be hired:

- One fifth grade
- Two fourth grade
- One third grade
- One second grade

The schedule is planned for screening applicants on May 17<sup>th</sup>, then interviewing for the second and third grade openings on the 18<sup>th</sup>, fourth and fifth grade openings on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Future Business**

As a side item in the professional development discussion, the BLT parent reps suggested that teachers collaborate on parent communication strategies that work well. They recommended the teachers set-up minimum standard guidelines to increase the consistency of communication sent home from each classroom.