

# West School Parent Group Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013

## President's Welcome

An Chen and Lori Williams welcomed the group at 10:05 am for the first WPG group meeting and thanked everyone for coming to Parents' Day.

## Superintendent's Comments: Anthony Ranii

- Applause for great Parent's Day, Dr. Adams, and faculty.
- Whether or not kids show you, it makes a huge impact on your kids to come to Parents' Day. The fact that parents took time to be there with their kids validates what they do in class. Thanked parents for supporting their kids.
- HCSD Forward: Visioning plan
  - We are the beneficiaries of those who came before us 15 years ago
  - Like essential outcomes, new buildings, renovated classrooms, whole child focus (social emotional learning), and concentration on differentiation with kids to reach their fullest potential. This is all a product of work that came before us. District made master plans that are still being implemented today.
  - With any cycle of improvement, we always need to come back to the beginning and see where we are at today. Now is the time to investigate what we are missing and what we haven't yet thought of; it's time to reimagine the school district. The process takes many months in order to come up with a plan to present to the board and then the plan then needs to be approved by Board.
  - The Plan is online under HCSD link under Superintendent link. Archived there.
  - Plan: Shared beliefs on page 3. Process will be inclusive – includes all of us in order to be accepted; includes Boards, teachers, parents, admin, and larger community as well. Envision 5 phases and where are in phase 1 now.
  - Phase 1: investigating together and looking outside school district to look at research and data on what schools are doing in other countries and other areas in the states. Share research and models of best practices so it gives us all a more equal playing field with access to the greatest minds of education now. It takes 9-15 months to do; already started in November. 3 different experiences:
    - Level 1: Give everyone a "taste." Emails from Ranii and Adams about research and educational thought.
    - Level 2: Invited parents to join Ranii for 2-3 hour conversations; different conversations about sleep or exercise or higher math, etc. Brain conference in SF, where learn about

education and the brain. Experts all around the country speaking about this. At the end, we will have done the research and look at exemplars in other states, countries and all over the world so that we will be informed enough and then by Phase 2 we will be ready to go.

- Phase 2: Narrow and define areas want to concentrate on because can't do everything. Define areas for attention.
- Phase 3: Take vision statement and turn it into action statements; turn it into smart goals that are strategic, attainable, realistic and time bound.
- Phase 4: take action plans and have steering committee for each one to really break it down and institutionalize it.
- Phase 5: Implementation, which could easily take 10 years.
- Once we start doing this work, it starts changing things instantly. It changes the conversation with parents and the schools. Once we start focusing on certain areas it will cause instantaneous change in the classrooms.

#### **HSF Comments: Wenda Treu**

- Great job pledging so please pledge if you haven't already. Very important to support our schools.

#### **Principle's Comments**

- Thanks to all the parents for a great day.
- Multicultural day was phenomenal and had such a positive outcome. Thanks!
- JB has been out sick and struggling with his health.
- Sorita out because she is now a Grandma and helping her daughter.
- Counselor office moved to main office next to Dr. Adams office. Helps for them to work together.
- West forum: great opportunity to talk about what is happening at West and what seeing and going on.
- Site council on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> and will be talking about technology at West.
- Cyber week: class ambassadors working on this with Ms. Lynes. Next week inserting into classrooms and giving resources to teachers to keep going with it. Trying to be step ahead of kids on cyber issues.
- Ambassadors: policy and respectful behavior. Hoping it resonates because it comes from the student leaders.
- Student council Spirit Day is on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> and it is 80's day and crazy hair day for all of the students.
- Presentation on curriculum design; what want students to understand; taking a global approach for our curriculum; not just about getting facts. Connects with research and Habits of Mind. Explicit and implicit experience and how this ties into our kids. Do our kids connect with teachers and what

they are learning? This is important. Discussion with staff about this today. Also will present this at Board meeting.

- West selected to be a pilot for future STAR test – 5<sup>th</sup> graders to take a portion of the language arts test. Done digitally last week in April. Tech directors are helping with this. Important to really look at the assessment a couple of years out so we can help us drive our curriculum that drives the Common Core.
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade working on all school newspaper. Embedded in curriculum and teachers are really excited. Two hours every morning with reporters all over the school getting info. Teachers and kids excited. Paper will come out for February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Safety plan: working hard to get protocols in place. Speaking with fire and police departments. Parents most concerned with how to get their child. Hope everyone will be on the large blacktop. Emergency cars with stickers to release kids. Pre-approved people for pick up but also can use someone else and they will try to verify. More paper up on windows so kids not visible. Drill in March.
- E-blast about pick up time and safety drop off. End of school is not a recess. Kids have to go home unless they are with you on the playground. Can't waive kids out to you on blacktop parking. Please read email as a reminder. Things a bit more chaotic right now so need to get back on track.

#### **Upcoming Events: Ingrid Davis**

- Student Council Spirit Day is February 14<sup>th</sup>: Spirit Day is 80's dress up and Crazy Hair day.
- Monte Carlo Dance Soiree March 1st: selling tickets now; please join HSF. Fund-A-Need that night will be for the STEM program -- Science Technology Engineering and Math
- Bingo night March 8<sup>th</sup>. Fun event
- Teacher appreciation week, need volunteers for that and for teacher luncheon.
- Hillsborough Memorial Day Parade: Parade, music festival and carnival that will take place at North. Town of Hillsborough would like more school participation. They agreed to provide West with a cable car and banner. They will let us know how kids can sign up and participate. The event starts at 10:30 with a walk to North school. West will need help with the cable car and walking chaperones. The Memorial Day parade is Monday, May 27, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Fowler