

PLCSF General Board Meeting
4:30pm Correia Library
May 5, 2014

Meeting called to order at 4:35pm
Roll call via sign-in sheet, quorum met

Scott Barnett (absent)

EIR for the Stadium will be out in May

Mike McQuary, candidate for sub-district C

- 30 years educational experience, high school, middle school, PhD in Curriculum and Instruction
- Talking with Superintendent Marten recently, and agrees with the direction the District is moving
- Election is June 3rd
- December 8th Scott will be moving on
- Has visited the Kearny and Mission Bay clusters
- “Child Centered”
- Ready to work with parents and students
- Coffee at the Living Room on Rosecrans, Saturdays @9am

Gil Gutierrez (absent)

He is moving on to Human Resources

Interim Area Superintendent, Jan Kaneko will take his place this week

Marvin Estrin, Treasurer’s Report

\$2,000 for insurance

P.O. Box cost

\$1,000 for Constant Contact – email and eblast system, keeping the website

\$1,200 in the bank

Discussion:

Insurance? Do we want to continue it?

Can we come up with some fundraising ideas?

Can we charge each school \$250 from the Principal’s budget?

Ian: If we are sticking with the District policy, and doing as they are requesting, no more, no less, than we don’t need the insurance and can operate under the purview of the high school, for example
If we are engaging in activities that pull us away from that, then we need insurance

Marvin: As long as we are a 501c3, we still have to have insurance

Ian: We could just continue any activities, but have them at the schools.

Melinda: If we want parents to serve, they want their assets covered and they won't serve if they aren't covered.

As to the matter of what the other clusters are doing:

Laura: La Jolla responded, that most clusters don't have insurance oosely-based groups;

Melinda: I would suggest that we charge the schools a percentage for the insurance, because its just the cost of doing business.

Scott: How have we paid for the insurance up to this point?

Marvin: The schools, and a kind donor.

Suzy: Giving up our 501c3 status may be more difficult. The charter school at the new downtown library has been going through the process for a while now.

Laura: Our best option is keeping the 501c3, because we don't know what we'll be doing in the next few years.

In regards to the idea of the schools contributing \$250 each to the cost of maintaining the cluster for the next year:

Tanya: If I had the money I'd do that, but I only have access to two pots of money that are intended to be used for children, or instructional supplies.

Jonathan: It will have to run out of our Associations budget, not through any district budgeting.

Arielle: Schools used to be paying \$3,600 to maintain websites, which most are no longer doing now.

Laura: When are the payments due?

Marvin: It's over a period of four months. We need \$2,000 now for insurance, then we will need \$1,000 in the fall for Constant Contact.

Laura: Should I write a letter to the Foundation Presidents to see if they can donate this year?

Jonathan: How can this be a self-sustaining entity if we aren't able to raise funds this year? This is going to be a yearly cost.

Henry cluster has a foundation that is self-sustaining and they raise funds around one central goal: STEM
I think Constant Contact shouldn't be a cost under the purview of the PLCSF

Scott: Constant Contact is a great tool for the schools and should be maintained, but the District offers its own tool and we can't justify an expense if the District is offering the same tool.

Mike: Signature event for the foundation, or some sort of fundraising thing. There is a sport's fundraiser using the check-up forms and a partnership with a local area doctor, who in turn kicks back money to the foundation.

Kirsten: When we did the common core night for parents, was there a system to get donations?

Laura: We didn't. We need buy-in from every stakeholder for any fundraising event to work. We need to have something that's going to pull them in. We need help, and people who are willing to do it.

Suzy: We need to send a message to our eblast lists and let them know that our Foundation is no longer able to facilitate itself.

A donate button on the eblast

Jonathan: We should send a letter out to the local businesses to see if they'd like to sponsor or support the cluster.

Melinda: Is the Cluster taking a lead on how we are rolling out Common Core? Can that be included in the push for fundraising?

Jonathan: Look at one big ticket item. In the Henry cluster, we had a shotgun golf outing. It was a reason to go out and support the cluster.

Have a benefit concert; the Blues in Schools Association could help.

Our kids

Suzy: We need to use the resources in our Cluster; we have 9 schools each with a PTA, PTO or Foundation – surely someone on those boards can help us with some fundraising ideas, or at least help with some connections.

Mike: With the stadium going in, we can get businesses to put up banners, and charge them for the banners.

Tanya: Clairemont does food trucks every Wednesday night.

Marvin: We still need to figure out how we are going to fund the Cluster Schools Foundation for the next year. Payments are due in \$500 increments in May, June, July and August.

Christy: As an immediate solution, can we ask the schools for additional money (\$50 or \$100)?

Laura: Which is why I want to send something out to the Foundation/PTA/PTO presidents to have them discuss this at their next meeting.

Scott: They are going to want to know why we need the money. Is it seed money? I suggest we break it down and tell them up front what we need.

Arielle: Transferring money from a 501c3 to another 501c3 can be very tricky (in reference to an earlier comment about being under the umbrella of another 501c3, like the Pointer Society).

Tanya: We did a “Can You Spare A Dollar” campaign to raise money for our new stage curtain. It worked really well!

Laura: I will put together something for the eblast and send something to our Foundations/PTAs, etc.

Kate: There is a donate button on the website.

Jonathan: Just checked the Discretionary funds and we are not allowed to use them for anything related to maintaining the cluster board.

Board Positions to be filled

Voting in our Exec Board in June

Positions to be filled: Secretary, Treasurer, Eblasters, Possibly VP

Melinda: If there are multiple people interested, can we have a vote

Christy: Have you eblasted it?

Laura: I will eblast it as well as put it through to the individual school eblasters.

Laurie: Our Foundation is looking for nominations, so with new boards being formed this time of year, it's a good time to approach the foundations/PTAs/PTOs

Laura: The idea is to have our Executive Board voted in in June, so they can work over the summer on things and be ready for the fall. The person elected would take one of the parent positions as one of their school's Cluster reps, leaving a space for the second parent rep.

Marvin made a motion to amend our bylaws to elect officers during the June meeting

Tanya seconded the motion

All in favor

Motion passes

Regarding membership and Cluster rep responsibilities:

Marvin: Information isn't always making it back to the school site

Kirsten: It's challenging, but I am on both the PLCSF and Sunset View's foundation and I am able to report out
But school foundations that already have their board set up may have a more difficult time doing that.

Scott: The notes for the PLSCF meetings should be a line item on the Foundation/PTAs agenda as a report out.

Christy: But it should be more of a two-way conversation and not just a report out.

Laura: It should definitely be a two-way conversation; the Principal is already the constant in both meetings, but if they aren't there info can still be shared
**Nomination form for parent reps is on the website

Principals Report Out, Scott and Tanya

Power Meeting

Elementary schools met during the past month with author and SDSU Professor, Doug Fischer
Correia and Dana had a similar event April 17th
Other middle schools in our area came (Area 6) – teachers came together

All 9 schools: Working towards a common dates for the 2014-15 school year, so we can get more dates aligned for more Professional Development (PD), Open House, etc.

Christy: Any plans about math, which is a hot topic

Tanya: We are talking about that now, and since there isn't much word from the District, we will be waiting on that. We have three days set aside for PD

Scott: We also are having a conversation about who is getting PD; is it about math, Language arts, etc. especially if it is in secondary school

Jack Vallerga: What we've done this year has been very useful – it's good to see the principals' working together and see what the other schools are doing.

If we can get Dana and Correia aligned with the high school, then we can start on the elementary schools.

I appreciate the efforts that the principals are making for our cluster

Arielle: For a teacher in a self-contained classroom, it's hard to see what's happening outside of the classroom.

Marco: The real value was getting the teachers together, out of their classrooms and having them talk with each other about what is happening at their site. The sharing of resources were worth it.

Glenda: That is the idea behind Common Core, more conversations.

Jami: That needs to go in the eblast! We need parents to understand that this is what our cluster does.

Marco: Making that work visible will pay off with fundraising. What is the purpose of the cluster? This is what we want to show parents and convince them that there is value in having the Cluster Foundation. People would be more inclined to donate a buck or two.

Brenna Baringer, Correia VP: As a new admin, I am so glad to be able to say “Yes” all year to requests for PD, and to let the teachers have the opportunity to do this.

Tanya: The Navy and Special Ed event.

Special Ed Connection 6pm-7:30, Thursday, May 15th web-based program for Navy and Marine, FN
Event will be held at Dewey

Christy: Can we eblast it out to the individual school sites as well?

Tanya will email the flier to the Principals and Suzy

Special Education Work Group Report out, Christy Scadden

Request: A Phone message (the most effective way to connect with this parent population) to go out for the last meeting on May 21st at 6:30pm in the PLHS library.

Scott: Principals will have the communications department send those out

Transitions:

1. Elem to Dana – assign a case manager to incoming students at the end of 4th grade, with meetings before the end of summer
 - a. Case managers should follow the child through 5th grade for continuity
 - b. At any events held at schools, there needs to be Special Ed aids, teachers, etc. there needs to be access to the special rooms, etc.
2. Dana to Correia –
3. Correia to PLHS – all case managers will cover activities with parents, attend orientation, and help with any communication
 - a. Some students with IEPs don’t even attend events because they don’t have access

Going forward:

1. 2-4 meetings next year with speakers
2. Building a resource webpage
3. Reach-out to military families, especially with the new Special Ed Connect event and site
 - a. Dewey families feel connected, but outside of Dewey they feel less connected
 - b. Making sure that connection is maintained to Dana and Correia

**A note from the parents attending the meeting: Being able to connect with other families with students with disabilities has been a highlight of this year.

Updates from Hans Becker at PLHS

WASC Process at PLHS

The self-study is happening

PLHS was selected as a Blue Ribbon School by US News and World Report, it's in the top 2%

Quality Teaching

Home School Compact review

Went from a Silver to Gold status

New Business:

Mark Harryman, Pt. Loma Library

New Programs – May 29th end of school year party, game truck, henna tattoos, and chocolate fountain
– stay tuned for fliers

Working on getting an after-school homework class going

The downtown library is funding homework programs at 15 different libraries around San Diego, unfortunately Pt. Loma isn't one of them. We need help via volunteers.

Great institution but we aren't used enough

Lego club on Wed @3:30 (2nd & 3rd graders), Chess club, movie club, but they want to do more academic clubs and offer more support

We want to help the community more, and we need more support in order to do

mharryman@sandiego.gov

DAC, Suzy Reid

The LCAP (Local Control Accountability Plan) is live on www.sandi.net/lcap

Please download the plan and read it over. This is the last chance parents, teachers, staff and other stakeholders have to provide feedback.

The plan is to work in conjunction with LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) and is aligned to the 12 Quality Indicators of a successful school that is part of the District's Vision 2020.

Online, there is a link to a form to provide feedback. The District will be taking feedback until the end of May.

A first reading of the LCAP will be on June 10th at the Board of Education meeting. On June 24th the BOE will vote to approve both the LCAP and the Budget.

Announcement:

Thursday, May 8, 2014 the CAC (Community Advisory Council for Special Education) is having their monthly meeting

May 8th at Lindberg-Schweitzer, the CAC will be awarding Ian Law as a standout teacher for his work with students with disabilities.

Meeting Adjourned, 6:01pm