

**Cesar Chavez Elementary School
Climate Committee Meeting Notes
March 12, 2012**

I. Counselor Planning

This year CCE was unable to hire a counselor for the four hours a week of counseling for grades 4-6 (funded by SIPAT). Although interviews were conducted and a candidate identified we were unable to hire this person because they were hired elsewhere. This has been a very frustrating process for our school and is a big loss for our students. We hope to rectify this situation for next year by pursuing the following:

- a. An increase in funding from SIPAT to 10 hours a week which would cover both 4-6 grade issues (small groups, friendship counseling) and also Kelso's Choices for grades k-3.
- b. A joint counselor position with Pioneer Elementary which would increase the counselor hours to between 18 and 22 hours, thus attracting better candidates and will have a better chance of being filled. We have discussed this possibility with the Pioneer PTA president and members of the climate committee, they are interested in this collaboration and are checking with their principal. There is a need to move relatively quickly with the district if this position is to be filled by August.

II. MME to CCE Transition

Sra. Beck discussed what has been done in the past to help the transition of Montgomery students to Chavez and this included both a parents and students visit and tour to CCE. She'd like to have a stand-alone parent meeting and a presentation at the Transition to 4th Grade meeting. She'd like to go beyond discussing just course work but also how fourth grade functions in terms of rotations and moving classes for different teachers. The MME students have not had this before so there is a need to address the unknown. Would also like to invite MME parents whose children have already transitioned to tell the incoming parents about their experiences. CCE and MME students have also done a pen pal program through Sra. Burnside's class.

The group discussed other ways of bringing the two third grade groups together before the start of school. Perhaps a picnic before school starts, a parent survey, a social function to get the students together or summer "playdates" that gives the students an opportunity to hang out. Perhaps a third grade ambassador program to assign a CCE student to a MME student, including the parents, as a way of facilitating the transition and giving the CCE students an opportunity at leadership. Perhaps also a language arts project in which welcome books are made for the incoming MME students. Raychel Adler should also be consulted on how to bring Playworks into the transition period to ease playground socialization by perhaps doing a special session in an afternoon.

There was also discussion about paying closer attention to the composition of the incoming MME students based on gender ratio and social skills. It was noted that the incoming class has many girls and few boys, how might that influence the transition?

Sra. Beck will talk with 3rd grade teachers about scheduling "playdates" in addition to meeting with the climate committee members interested in helping with the transition to organize their approach.

III. Kinder to 1st Grade Playground Transition

Kinder parent Marsha Baird has agreed to help coordinate the parents of incoming first graders for extra yard duty supervision (particularly in the critical first few months of school when the first graders don't know how things work yet. Marsha will have a sign up sheet at the May 3rd Transition to First Grade meeting for parents who are interested in helping with yard supervision. She expressed a desire to have a bit more training for the parents in terms of what they can and cannot do as yard duty supervisors. The climate committee expressed interest in institutionalizing this position and also in having Raychel Adler bring Playworks to the kindergarteners prior to the start of first grade in the fall.

IV. Climate Survey

Anastasia shared the data of the parent and student surveys (she is still working on the staff surveys). The reports are attached to this email as PDFs. She discussed a few of the problems with the surveys and also some of the initial findings. For example, when looking at the data on bullying both the 3-6 grade children and all parents (k-6) seemed to be in agreement that verbal bullying was the most prevalent on campus (something the committee agreed would be helped by having a counselor on site). Anastasia hopes to have more fine-tuned results by the next climate meeting on April 5th including a breakdown by grade level. Several committee members have offered to help her code the written comments by the parents - there were over 100 comments for the climate committee and another 70 that are for Sra. Beck only. Anastasia has contact Jann Murray-Garcia about a parent workshop on girl bullying. Jann has agreed to this and will most likely conduct this workshop in late April or early May. There will be more on this soon.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 5th at 3:30 p.m. in Room 20