

**Cesar Chavez Climate Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2011**

**Introductions**

Amy Duffy, Anastasia , Jan Murray-Garcia, Lisa Baumeister, Diane Wilson, Alice Belenis, Krista DeZerega-Thomson, Hoa Ly, Denise Beck, Sara Caulfield, Lori Leong, Sylvia Kwon

**District Climate Committee Policy**

Reviewed

Discussed CCE having previous Climate Committee but lead by one parent. The committee was reintroduced a year and a half ago.

Dr. Murray-Garcia gave a history of DJUSD school climate committees and how it became policy for all schools to have one in June 2003 following incidents of racial bias and hate speech that occurred at the high school and among young people in general.

**2010-2011 Final Report**

Discussed focus & accomplishments of climate committee last year:

- **The Climate Surveys:** The parent, student, and staff surveys are ready for implementation in late January or early February 2012. The surveys were not conducted last year because the committee was unable to get the survey translated into Spanish in time and due to testing in May. Pam Mari, the director of student services at the district level, has agreed to have the district translate the survey for us. This translation is still pending.
- **Counselor:** A counselor was hired to service the fourth to sixth grade classes, however, she left after a brief amount of time on the job. There appeared to be confusion regarding the amount of hours and pay for the job. We were unable to hire another counselor for the remainder of last school year.
- **Kelso's Choice Program:** Given the lack of a counselor for the school year, Principal Beck took on the additional responsibility of implementing Kelso's Choice in the primary grades. This program was not fully realized in the 2010-2011 school year.
- **Montgomery Transition:** The transitioning 4<sup>th</sup> grade Montgomery students received a CCE welcome binder. A joint CCE and MME field trip and CCE school tour were held as part of the pen pal program prior to the new MME students arriving on the CCE campus.
- **Student Council:** Under the direction of teachers Sara Caulfield and Jose Bermudez a student council was formed at the school. Elections were held late in the school year for officers and for class representatives. The student council had a carwash fundraiser, planned to attend a leadership conference in Sacramento, and began organizing for the next school year.
- **Film Screening:** Jann Murray-Garcia screened the film *From the Community to the Classroom* for the Chavez community. The film details the 2003 incidents of racial bias and hate speech that prompted the school district to mandate climate committees at all sites. Davis High School

history teacher Mike Kanna also attended with several students from the Race and Social Justice class.

## **Discussions:**

### *Playground supervision*

It was reported that recess supervision of 300 primary children was initially done by two yard duty personnel and Sra Beck, while PTA recommends 1:40 ratio. Diane Wilson had personal experiences that were not ok and took her concerns to the principal. With great effort Principal Beck was able to secure 4 yard duty personnel to supervise the 300 primary students. Principal Beck now has a parent leader lined up to coordinate additional parent helpers for first grade recesses. A letter is being sent out this Thursday to all first grade parents explaining the playground supervision and need for additional support from parent volunteers. The goal is to have a group of parents, under the parent leader who will be formally trained during recess by Principal Beck, supervising daily on the playground. These parents will wear the black and white striped vest and be available to support kids, not to engage in discipline. This program is separate from Playworks.

### *MME transition supports*

A year ago a variety of transition programs were implemented by parents and the CCE school counselor, Susie Carrell, to help MME students transition into CCE at 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Transition support programs included: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pen pals, a back-to-school school tour provided by alumni MME SI students at CCE, a back-to-school picnic between pen pal classes, a welcome binder for students, and a meet and greet for transitioning SI families.

CCE and MME have a pen pal program that continues today with Sra. Burnside's class. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders who entered CCE this year received a school tour with Sra. Beck. They had CCE pen pals last year and received a welcome binder, but there were no other collaborative efforts to support transitioning students in 2011-2012. Hoa Ly shared that transition difficulties do exist for incoming MME 4<sup>th</sup> graders, and she expressed her desire for additional support from the CCE community.

### *Play works*

Promotes the power of play, and organized recess play opportunities that promote fun, teamwork, conflict resolution, safety and inclusion on the playground. 35 parents and teachers attended the first training on Oct 5th. MME coming on as collaborators, and they had one teacher per grade and their yard play leader present at the training. Our CCE goal is to start with parent support and games at LUNCH recess a few times a week by end of November. Second training is scheduled for Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:45-8:15PM. There is room for additional participants, and anyone interested should contact Raychel Adler at [raykub@gmail.com](mailto:raykub@gmail.com). We had two parents give their information for the next training. Also, Christina Coyle from CDC expressed interest. This program provides another opportunity for shared community language and collaboration for all students at CCE. Play works is already being implemented in the fifth grade classroom and has initially been met with great success. Play works can also be seen as a tool for bridging MME and CCE, thus helping kids with transition from MME to CCE. When MME 4<sup>th</sup> graders arrive, they will already know and understand playground games, playground rules and hopefully have a successful recess time. Idea for play works to come to fourth grade now, and work in the fourth grade classes to promote stronger community and thus supporting the CCE students who are new to this campus of Spanish immersion.

### *Kelso's Choice/school counselor*

The Kelso's Choice program will be continued in all primary classes for 2011-2012. Sra. Beck has volunteered to be the educator to implement this program. She is currently finalizing her schedule and

plans to spend time weekly in all primary grade classrooms to teach students about Kelso, role play choices, and provide the problem solving/conflict resolution skills laid out by the program. Sra. Beck will look into options for formal training. A professional counselor is ideal, but CCE does not currently have the funding. The current budgeted SIPAT funding for a counselor provides for only four hours per week for the 2011-2012 school year, and the identified priority use for these counseling hours is to service the intermediate grades, providing direct support to the students who will benefit. Having a counselor, even in this limited capacity, will free up Sra. Beck's time and enable her to bring the Kelso program to each of the primary grades. Lisa B shared some concerns about Sra. Beck's full schedule, and asked how she will be able to teach Kelso's Choices consistently and successfully given her very full load of administrative duties. Sra Beck shared many of benefits that she sees to implementing the Kelso program herself, and asked that the committee grant her one month to try. Sra. Beck expressed her optimism that she will be able to implement this program, and said that if it is determined that she is unable to make the time to do Kelso, then she agrees that looking for an alternative solution would be warranted.

### *Funding*

SIP AT provides funding for many programs on a one to one basis. SIPAT previously funded implementing Kelso's Choice at CCE with the expertise of Susie Carrell. That limited counselor funding has now been designated for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, and no additional funding has been allocated for Kelso's Choice curriculum implementation. For 2011-2012 SIPAT has allocated \$4000 for a counselor which provides four hours counseling services per week for the year. The Playworks program cost \$6,000 this year. SIP AT approved \$4000 for Playworks, and the remaining \$2000 was covered by grant funds raised by Raychel Adler and Sra. Beck.

### *Climate Survey*

The survey subcommittee invested many hours creating the survey last year. The district has approved the survey. The district is now completing the Spanish translation. Our goal is to distribute the completed survey in early February 2012.

Each of the three surveys (staff, student, and parent) has a maximum of 43 questions. The student survey will be completed by all 3rd to 6th grade students. The questions build on each other. Not all individuals will answer all 43. Students will complete the survey in the computer lab during class time, and we estimate that it will take students less than one hour to complete the survey.

Survey Monkey will be used to tally and score responses. Sample questions were passed around. The survey focuses on bullying, general social climate, school connectedness, support from home, and student leadership opportunities. All individuals are asked to reflect on their experiences over the previous month. Anastasia mentioned that some of the questions are borrowed from the Healthy Kids survey (which is given only every 2 years to 5, 7, and 9th graders) in order to provide a point of comparison with our survey.

### **Election of Officers**

Anastasia Panagakos and Amy Duffy elected Co-CCE Climate Committee Chairs  
Sara Caulfield elected secretary with support from Krista DeZerega-Thomson

### **Monthly meeting not addressed**

Sra Beck is unable to make Nov 8, so we will look for alternate meeting time to insure her presence. A request was made that we consider an alternative, earlier meeting time that might enable additional staff and parents to attend.