

**César Chávez Climate Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2013**

**I. Introductions**

Present: Denise Beck, Anastasia Panagakos , Amy Duffy, Krista DeZerega Thomson, Christine Dahlgren, Eva Dopico, Sara Caulfield

**II. Climate Survey**

The Climate Survey is at the tail end and the deadline is February 28th. As of today at 45% of parents have taken the survey. Anastasia would email teachers to send home kids with sticker reminders for the parents and to email their own class distribution lists.

Numbers so far:

Parents - 285

Staff - 16

Students -234

Only one third grade class has taken it. Sra. Garibay sent along the message that the survey was too long for third grade students, like an exam, and is there another way to do survey for third graders? The computer lab is a bit cumbersome for the third graders who are not accustomed to using the lab. Sara recommended that a climate committee member be in charge of the scheduling of lab time next year and not a teacher. It was unclear whether the ELAC families had been given the survey in hard copy as they had last year (needed to check with Sra. Beck who had not joined the meeting yet).

**III. Counselor Report**

Sra. Allgood sent the following update via email:

- a. I'm continuing to go into 4-6 classes weekly. Most classes have been through: identifying their conflict resolution styles (owl, turtle, lion = assertive, passive, aggressive) & discussing the pros/cons of each
- b. Identifying positive friendship qualities (I had them select their top 5 qualities, 1 quality they want to improve on & 1 quality they can help others with)
- c. Discussing the "friendship triangle" (when 'A' is friends with 'B' & 'C' but B & C don't like each other) and the roles/responsibilities of all people involved. Gave practical suggestions on what specifically to say (& how to say it) and what to do. We had a lot of great discussions in the classes on this topic.
- d. Creating a good reputation (discussing how choices/behaviors effect how people see you)

Next week I'll begin the bullying series of lessons in at least 2 classes with others to follow. I've been giving students a green handout that we work on throughout the lessons (they keep it for 2-3 weeks) and encourage them to take it home & show their parents what we've been discussing in class.

I've been squeezing in Kelso refresher lessons to the K-3 as time permits. It's been going a little slow as I rotate through all the classes and find availability. Teachers have been so supportive/flexible and the students are just so visibly excited for another lesson.

I've wrapped up the 2 small groups I've been doing since December in the 4-6 grades. There was a need expressed by various 1st-3rd gr teachers and parents on concerns relating to socializing, anxiety and staying in control (when experiencing negative feelings) so I've started 2 weekly small groups - a 1st/2nd grade friendship group and a 2nd/3rd grade managing feelings group. The first session was last week.

Unless Baby Allgood comes early, I plan to be out from April 1-May 10 (6 weeks). I've been feeling great and still plan to work up until I go into labor. I'll be out for 6 weeks and will return to close out the school year with the students.

#### **IV. Student Council**

Sara Caulfield provided an update for the committee:

- a. The student council created and is updating the thermometer posters for the parent climate survey.
- b. Spirit days continue - the latest was the color day and the students counted by grade level the number of children wearing their grade level color and made a poster.
- c. The mascot selection process continues. The student council went around to the different classes to discuss the mascot selection process. The list of mascot choices is being narrowed down and the student council researched each selection in order to present a full story about that particular animal or character to the classes. There will also be a discussion of school colors to come as well.
- d. There will be election of officers in March and workshops to learn about giving speeches and running for office.

#### **V. Playworks**

Raychel Adler sent an update via email:

Playworks volunteers would begin counting the number of student who play at recess as requested by SIPAT. Next month or in the spring Raychel is hoping to start a playground peers program with the student council. More information on this will be coming soon.

#### **VI. 1st Grade Playground Transition & Parent Volunteer Supervision Program.**

Marsha Baird sent an update via email that she believes she has identified a kindergarten parent to take on the role of volunteer coordinator for next year. She will have this parent shadow her during lunch time to see what is entailed in the job.

#### **VII. Lunch Etiquette/Socialization**

A continuation of the discussions from previous meetings regarding how to better prepare students for lunchtime. A parent email was read that discussed how student lunch competition and comparison in Japan was handled. In that situation the mothers agreed to only put certain things in their child's lunch as a way of avoiding the comparison and competition.

There was more discussion on starting the first graders in the cafeteria for the first two months of school to avoid the lack of shade and also to socialize them to appropriate or desired lunch time behavior. The idea would be to set the rules consistently and firmly at the beginning of the school year. This would be an opportunity for the yard staff and lunch staff to introduce themselves as well.

#### **VIII. Parent Resource Library**

- a. Lisa Baumeister donated videos to start new CCE Parent Resource Library.
2. Amy & Anastasia will ask Katherine Allgood for book recommendations
3. Amy & Anastasia will look through notes from past parent education events (esp. with Jann Murray-Garcia) and create a Parent Resource Library Wish list. We need to email this list to Christine Dahlgren. She would prefer to get our list by this Friday 3/1, but needs it by Tuesday 3/5 at the latest to use Book Fair money to purchase any books on the list that are available through Scholastic.
4. Denise will look into possible locations for the new parent resource library (most likely a section of the circulo room or the CCE library).

#### **VI. New Discussion Items**

##### **a. Role of committee when concerns are brought up**

Sara Caulfield asked about the role of the committee in responding to parent complaints. Amy and Denise shared the official district policy regarding the parent complaint process. Amy shared the commitment she and Anastasia have to promoting open communication between parents and staff, and the frequent opportunities we have to encourage parents to share their concerns directly with teachers or the administration. Amy also shared the role of the committee in working with the staff and parents in creative problem solving and preventing problems (through clear communication, parent education, information gathering, providing additional support services like a counselor, or looking at possible changes to the school culture and/or environment).

b. Primary Play Area Upgrades

Denise asked for an update on the plans to expand/enhance the primary play area to include a cozy area that promotes creative and imaginative play. She asked that Amy & Anastasia submit an announcement for the CCE newsletter asking for parents with experience in environmental design for children's outdoor play areas, and/or passion for creating age appropriate play spaces that promote imaginative and creative play, join the new CCE play yard enhancement committee (or whatever we choose to call it). Krista suggested that committee members look at the UC Davis Center for Children and Family Studies play yard, as well Turtle Bay, for inspiration and ideas. Amy volunteered to bring play yard design resources that she has to our next climate meeting. Other committee members are encouraged to bring ideas, pictures, and resources to contribute as well.

**VII. 2012-13 Remaining Meeting Dates**

March 26 at 7:00 p.m.

April 30 at 3:30 p.m.

May 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Questions or comments about these meeting minutes should be directed to Anastasia Panagakos (panagaa@crc.losrios.edu) or 530-753-2378