

**Cesar Chavez Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2012**

Present: Amy Duffy, Anastasia Panagakos, Denise Beck, Sharon Davies, Lynn Angelo, Sylvia Kwon, Krista DeZerega-Thomson

I. Workshop Follow-Up

The committee discussed the girl bullying workshop conducted by Jann Murray-Garcia on April 24th and was overall pleased with the high attendance (around 90 people) and the representation of eight different Davis schools. This was very encouraging for the committee and has inspired us to continue workshops for next year and as an annual event on some topic of interest to parents (perhaps something that ties into the yearly climate survey). We discussed how we could encourage a common definition of bullying for the students, parents, and staff so that when problems do arise everyone is talking about the same thing. Some conflicts may be friendship issues and not bullying, it is important to distinguish. A trained counselor will be effective in moving this forward.

II. Counselor Hire

Principal Beck updated the committee on the counselor hire and plans are moving forward. She is working with Principal Brayton at Pioneer and at the district level. The process is stalled until everything is sorted out at the district regarding pink slips for teachers and who will be hired back. The two principals and the district will have a timeline for the hiring process sometime this month. The hope is to have a counselor in place for both schools by the beginning of the school year.

III. MME Transition

Teacher Esther Burnside and Principal Beck coordinated a field trip of MME and CCE third graders to Central Park where they visited the Webber Museum and also did Playworks. On May 9th the MME third graders will come over to Chavez to spend the whole day and have lunch. There is some confusion as to what is happening at MME regarding the future of Spanish immersion at the school given the school district's plans for either a dual immersion program or adding a 4th grade immersion class. The committee continues to focus on what is within our abilities, including a discussion of a transition orientation for all incoming 4th graders since 4th grade is a difficult time. The idea would be for all incoming 4th graders to visit and meet the teachers and their classrooms.

IV. Transition to Jr. High

There was discussion at the previous climate meeting on whether there is a need to do more to help the transition of 6th graders to junior high. After some discussion it was learned that Emerson has a fantastic transition program already in place and that Chavez parent and Emerson teacher, Jennifer Terra, has been instrumental in making this transition smooth for students and parents. The Chavez climate committee would like to establish a parent information night for 6th grade Chavez parents prior to the junior high orientations which would include a panel of junior high parents representing all the schools. This info night would take place in late January most likely.

V. Website

The Climate Committee wishes to thank Jenna Makus and SIPAT for providing the committee with space on their website. Jenna has created a wonderful page for us which now includes our meeting minutes, annual reports, and resources. Soon it will also have the climate survey report. We look forward to being able to communicate with our parents through this website which can be accessed at:

<http://www.ccesipat.com/index.cfm/programs/climate-committee/>

VI. Next Year and New Items

Principal Beck suggested formalizing the important climate related activities (such as the survey) so that they may appear on the community calendar that is distributed at the beginning of the school year. This is a good way to keep our activities on everyone's radar. It was suggested that we formalize the parent, student, and staff climate surveys to the first and second weeks of February which are traditionally slower times for the school.

The Climate Committee will continue working with the ongoing projects of the transition teams, climate surveys, and workshops. We will continue to support the principal and staff in creating a positive learning environment for the students. We hope to encourage new members to join us for next year and that our current members will continue on with us.

The Committee Chairs wish to thank everyone for their support this year and their hard work. This has truly been a team effort and we could not have accomplished our goals without everyone's help!