

César Chávez Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2012

I. Introductions

Present: Denise Beck, Anastasia Panagakos , Amy Duffy, Eva Dopico, Sylvia Kwon

II. Counselor Report

a) 2nd grade teacher Eva Dopico reported that Ms. Allgood's delivery of Kelso's Choices to her second grade students has been going very well. She wishes the counselor were available during more times to help with real situations and problems.

b) 5th grade teacher Stephanie Hunt reported that Ms. Allgood has begun working with small groups and with individual students who the teachers have identified as needing more help. Ms. Allgood has visited the upper-grade classrooms once and may do friendship group activities with the students. The committee discussed the desire for the use of common language for problem solving and also role playing.

c) The committee discussed the need to document Ms. Allgood's work with the students in order to be able to report back to SIPAT regarding how effective and necessary a counselor is for the school. Given that the position must be renewed and approved by SIPAT each year the committee feels it necessary to provide SIPAT with data indicating the effectiveness of the counselor on school climate.

d) Anastasia will attend next week's SIPAT meeting to discuss a parent ed night that involves the counselor discussing her work at the school and detailing the Kelso's Choices program and how parents can reinforce it at home.

III. Updates

a) Student Council - Update provided by Sara Caulfield (via email) and Sra. Beck

Concejo estudiantil is a student government organization focused on providing students in Grades 4-6 with opportunities to develop leadership skills and service opportunities. Elected student officers and class reps meet each Wednesday during their lunch recess to work on Student Council activities. The following staff members provide tons of support to make this group successful!

- i. Teacher Sara Caulfield is the Student Council Advisor. She regularly communicates with parents and staff through emails and newsletters, and holds weekly Wednesday meetings.
- ii. Teachers Lynn Angelo (1st Grade) is the Primary Grade Teacher Liaison. She regularly meets with Advisor to plan student council events and look for opportunities to engage our entire student body in Grades 1-6 more in the school community.
- iii. Teacher Eva Dopico (2nd Grade) helps coordinate spirit days with her students and communicates regularly with primary staff regarding these and other special events.

- iv. Intermediate teachers provide time for class reps to present their activities, and support them in developing their communication and leadership skills
- v. Principal Denise Beck provides ongoing leadership to students and Advisor in addition to support with copy costs and materials for student council such as dividers and binders for handbooks, and approves all student council activities.
- vi. School Secretaries Lynn Alvarez and Gabriela Rodarte provide assistance with finances, copying and facilities organization
- vii. LEADERSHIP
 - 1. 20 Leadership Conference 9- 11 a.m. in MPR for new officers and class reps
 - 2. Student Council designed and voted on t-shirts to wear for Student Council events. Look for the brightly colored Tie Dyed t-shirts each Wednesdays when Concejo estudiantil meets as well as during other Student Council activities
- viii. SPIRIT DAYS
 - 1. Planned 9 spirit days for the entire year
 - 2. Sponsored 3 Spirit Days so far: Dia de medias locas (September), Dia del sombrero loco (October), and Dia de multiplicidad (November). Made signs/announcements. Spirit days are on 2nd Wednesday of the month.
 - 3. SCHOOL SPIRIT: Established a Book Drive to see which 4-6 and K-3 classroom can bring in the most used items. The winning classes in each section earn a pizza party hosted by Student Council. Class reps are responsible for counting and recording their classroom donations. Then they carry books to office.
- ix. COMMUNITY SERVICE
 - 1. Organized sign making to advertise School Climate Meeting
 - 2. Volunteered at Fall Book Fair as door monitors, organizing books, and dressing up as Geronimo Stilton to promote excitement for Book Fair.
- x. FUNDRAISING
 - 1. Organized donations for Used Book Sale. Collected and organized over 4,000 items for the sale.
 - 2. Used Book Sale to take place on December 12 and 13. Proceeds to go towards purchase of new lunch tables in cafeteria.

b) Playworks - Updates provided by Raychel Adler (via email) and Sra. Beck

The number of kids we are serving with Playworks is growing. Teachers are teaching the games to their classes at PE, and Raychel is doing PE classes in addition to lunch recess and the energy is building each week.

- i. Raychel met with Mel Lewis and Kate Snow from district climate the week before Thanksgiving break. They are very excited about what we are doing at CCE and want to propose a district wide training potentially. They asked if we could keep some basic data to show our success. One idea would be to have Gabi at the front desk tally the number of referrals in the hour after lunch on a non-PW day (only Wednesday) as compared to a PW day (prefer Thursday since I am there and we have generated interest all week). We also want basic feedback from teachers and students about what they like - maybe in the form of 2-4 questions they could be asked perhaps this is something the Climate Committee could help with.
- ii. At Mel and Kate's request Raychel spoke at the Board of Education meeting the Thursday before break as they were discussing Climate Related initiatives in the community. The overview went well and after Raychel was contacted by Clark Bryant who said he had been hearing about Playworks from other Principals and wanted to check out what we are doing. He is coming this Thursday!

c) 1st Grade Playground Transition and Parent Supervisors - Updates provided by Marsha Baird (via email)

- i. The first graders appear to have settled into a routine and Sra. Beck has not been contacted lately by any of the 1st grade parent lunch supervisors regarding problems.
- ii. Marsha brought up the concern that as the rains start eating in the cafeteria becomes very hectic and stressful. She wanted to know if there was a way to have only two grades eat in the cafeteria at a time. The committee was unable to address this issue at this time.

d) Lunch Schedule

Sra. Beck spoke with the Principals at Birch Lane and Montgomery Elementary schools, both schools have tried switching the lunch schedule to have the students play first and then eat second.

- i. Montgomery reported that they are now in the second year of this schedule and plan to keep it for the time being. The principal reported that it is necessary to have buy-in from the teachers because it is initially quite a bit of work on their part to make it successful. Lunch is 45 minutes - 20 to play, 5 to transition, and 20 to eat. First graders still complain that they don't have enough time to eat but the teachers report that the students seem to have more energy to complete the day when they play first and eat second.

- ii. Birch Lane reported that they have now switched back to the traditional schedule because primary lunch was then too late. Parents and students thought that there wasn't enough time to play or organize games. The teachers were divided into equal thirds regarding those who liked it, those who had no strong opinion and those who disliked it. Some teachers noted that it did allow students who were finishing up work to continue working through the play period of lunch to catch up. The principal noted a remarkable drop in playground referrals with the new schedule but also noted that this type of schedule does not seem to work for such a large elementary school.
- iii. Sra. Beck noted that our goal was to gather information regarding this type of lunch schedule and that it most likely wouldn't work for a large school like Chavez. The committee then discussed other ways to change the culture of lunch that do not involve changing the schedule:
 1. Anastasia provided several scholarly articles detailing how other schools deal with the overcrowding, long lunch lines, and behavioral issues.
 2. Sra. Beck discussed the possibility of having 1st grade students eat in the cafeteria every day for the first 2 months of school as a way to ease overcrowding, address the shade issue during the hot months, and to train the first graders on lunch time routines. This would also remove potential conflicts the first graders may have with the 2nd and 3rd graders during those first few months when they are still learning the routine.
 3. The committee discussed creating a more dynamic play area by the first grade play structure to give the students more options. The area over by the trees was discussed in terms of creating walking paths and obstacle courses. Amy Duffy and Sra. Beck would look into this.
 4. Sra. Beck suggested a more proactive approach to introducing games to the first graders through PE that will also give them other play options during lunch.

IV. Climate Survey

Anastasia and Sra. Beck reported that the climate survey window is set for the second two weeks of February. Anastasia noted that the surveys will largely remain unchanged from last year with minor adjustments. PR for the surveys will begin in earnest in early January and the committee hopes to enlist Student Council's help as it did last year for posters and other publicity materials.

V. Upcoming Meetings

- **District Climate Meeting - December 4, 3:30-5:00 p.m. District Office**
- **SIPAT - December 4, 7:00 p.m. Room 20**

- **FUTURE CLIMATE MEETINGS (Room 20, CCE)**
 - January 29, 7:00 p.m.**
 - February 26, 3:30 p.m.**
 - March 26, 7:00 p.m.**
 - April 30, 3:30 p.m.**
 - May 28, 7:00 p.m.**

Comments or questions regarding these minutes may be directed to Anastasia Panagakos at panagaa@crc.losrios.edu