

SGT Minutes

November 13, 2023

Present: William Pearson, Jennean Danielson, Brenda Wilson, Todd Resley, Yuko Kanazawa, Lisa Dowling, Jumana Seifeldin, Garrett Ashman, Courtney Kern, H. Gonzalez, Rosa Tlatempa, Nikki Botts, Rita Oliveira.

Item 1

Call to order at 3:15 p.m.

Item 2 – Public Comments

- There were no Public Comments.

Item 3 – SGT Business

- October minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.
- Rita Oliveira was introduced. She joined the October meeting as a guest and offered to take the minutes as a non-member. She will be an alternate (allowed by the by-laws) and will be the secretary for the rest of the year. She will only vote, if one parent is absent.
- SGT Chair nominations. Postponed from last meeting agenda. Mr. Pearson asked if anyone is interested in being the Chair and clarified that any member of SGT can be the chair. Mr. Pearson will continue to facilitate these meetings until we have a Chair.
- Mr. Pearson asked if anyone has any items, they would like to see on the agenda to please email him in advance or bringing them up during the meeting to be discussed on the following meeting.
- By-Laws update. Section 7- Participants. Instead of “6 SDEA members including SDEA union rep and a counselor” rule, the proposed rule is to maintain 50% of the SGT as SDEA”. The numbers will be replaced by percentages to allow more flexibility and to return to the way it used to be. This change will not affect the current team. Brenda Wilson made the motion to approve the by-laws. Jeanne second that motion. The motion was passed.

Item 4 Principal’s Update

- Mr. Pearson checked his sent messages and apologized for not sending any emails to parents regarding SGT volunteer nominations this year. It was advertised in all personal meetings. Yuko was correct about this.
- The school is working with SSC to find ways to improve parents’ participation in the electronic messaging and website. Mr. Pearson gave the parent survey as an example, only had 29% participation. We need to get to the district requirements, 70% participation. Yuko suggested that the SGT meeting dates should be included on the Principal Friday’s emails, the same way the UC cluster meeting was included last Friday. This could be a good way to advertise these meetings, in order to bring more parents that in the future could volunteer to fill open positions. Mr. Pearson reiterated the meeting are open to the public but the public can only speak in the beginning, during the public comments on any agenda items.
- Enrollment allocations and adjustments. We are currently at 838. The district gave some additional allocations and we were able to fund one additional math and one additional science class both for 6th grade. No more mass changes are expected until the end of the year.
- Attendance. Standley remains number 1 in attendance for all middle schools in San Diego Unified. We are also number 1 in our cluster. Mr. Principal talked about how important

attendance and grades in middle school are for the academic future of the students and he suggested that we read the article he sent from Chicago District that talks this subject.

- Staff collaboration on Site RDP update. Mr. Pearson gave an update on their last meeting. They focused on level 1 and level 2 behaviors, cellphone policy, tardiness and willful defiance/disruption. They worked in groups to understand what has been done in classrooms, what additional support might be necessary and what should be modified. He shared a draft document (https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E10CRdzn5Nve2QHzYK7bCBiZ0_LRRfWtPf8MtUc1688/edit) that condenses everything the school is doing into one place and pointed out the column that shows what parents can do to help. Mr. Pearson will be asking parents to either join a subcommittee on the SGT or join one at the UC cluster (if they create one) to work on suggestions to be included on the Ongoing-Parent/Guardian Support column. Garrett asked if it is possible to get data on how many fights there were in school this week or this month and how many involved repeat offenders. Mr. Pearson said that all that information is reviewed on the SSC meetings and included on the minutes, posted on the website and board bulletins by the minutes. On SGT, we work collaboratively on building a policy that supports how we deal with the behaviors. Garrett asked if that data from SSC includes repeat offenders? Mr. Pearson answered that the names of repeat offenders will never be shared but data will be provided in a way we can extrapolate. The discipline policy already exists, we are not changing the district restorative discipline policy. We are connecting the dots between its different levels at our site. The policy was difficult to navigate in its released form and that's the reason why it didn't get implemented by every site. This year we are lining the policy up with school actions and making it clear. At SGT we are only going to look at level 1 & 2 behaviors. YK summarized that the restorative policy was put together by the district some years ago and they are giving the chance to each site to adapt this policy to their reality, that Mr. Pearson is asking us to work together to implement and support the policy.

Item 5 SGT Discussion/Action

- Awards categories. We have four categories: platinum, gold, silver and bronze. At the ceremonies we no longer recognize bronze due to kids not showing up, capacity and not enough time. They were moved to honor cards only. Last year there was an notification mistake and we awarded them. A few issues were brought up last year. 1) The classes should be weighted. Accelerated and seminar classes should get more points. 2) The awards can ruin self-esteem if they didn't get the highest award or if they didn't get any award at all. 3) The second semester awards. Some parents were upset because their kids' grades kept improving towards the end of the year, they ended up with better grades than the ones used for the awards. We cannot wait for the end of the school year to give these awards as the final grades are only out after the school is out for the year. We need to discuss if we want to continue with the awards. If so, should we only have 1st semester? Garrett would like to keep recognizing the kids that are doing well. If the ceremony is only after school, it shouldn't be a problem.
- Cell Phone Policy. The policy states that cell phones can be brought to school between 8:05 am and 2:55 pm but they are supposed to be off and out of site. The cell phones and social media are becoming a big problem. More and more students are using them inappropriately, and posting videos and photos taken in school on social media. Their main excuses for using the phones are playing a video game, texting parents and parents texting them. Mr. Pearson is asking the parents to be supportive of the cell phone policy and is asking for suggestions of what can be done to make it more impactful for students. There are too many repeat offenders and the school cannot spend the day worrying about phones.

- Topics SGT would like to add to future agendas. Garrett asked for regular updates on the Standards based grading/learning and restorative justice program, specifically how can we ensure it is working for Standley. Mr. Pearson said that this year the SGT is working on having a transparent comprehensive site restorative discipline plan. Regarding the standard base grading, Mr. Pearson asked him to send him specific questions. Garrett wanted to know what is the retake test policy. Mr. Pearson said Standley has adopted “it is what they know, not what they do” and every teacher has a retake policy outlined on the teacher’ syllabus. The policy is that they need to provide opportunities to retakerevise but there is no guideline how to implement that. Changes are made every year and sometimes during the year. That is discussed during the department meetings.

Adjourn at 4:19 p.m.

Next meeting December 11, 2023

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