

Lowell School Site Council Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by the Chair, Tom Chambers.

Present: Ishibashi, Chambers, Dickey, Fong, Hsieh, Innis, Jensen, Marten, Mastel, Melvin, Prutz, Shepard, Skinner, Yee, Zhou; **Excused:** Abad, Adams, Bullard, Cho, Pollard, Wen, Winter, D. Wong; **Unexcused:** Darling, Lin, Williams, M. Wong

I. Discuss/approve minutes of Oct.21, 2013- Ms. Mastel moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ishibashi seconded. Meeting minutes were approved.

II. Public Comment - None

III. Committee Reports - None

IV. Old Business - None

V. New Business-

A. Revised staffing/funding sources – The PTSA has approved an extra 0.2 FTE in order to add two sections of AP Human Geography for the spring semester. Mr. Ishibashi noted that these positions will generate more money for the school next year because of increased numbers of AP tests.

The district has made changes to the funding formula for JROTC positions. Historically the district has paid 50 per cent of each position and WSF has paid the other 50 percent. However, the district now says it will pay 50 percent of the first JROTC position and only 20 percent of the second position. To cover the additional cost of the position the district temporarily took the money out of the supplies budget. Mr. Ishibashi is working on this situation so that the money will be returned to the supplies budget. Mr. Chambers added that there are some changes in math staffing for the spring semester which will impact one section of College and Career. Mr. Ishibashi and Mr. Chambers will continue to work on these funding changes. Mr. Ishibashi added that because WSF money is not involved, a vote by the SSC is not necessary.

Ms. Melvin commented that the union met with the district to discuss the decrease in funding per student this year. The district's explanation is that three times more schools have a declining enrollment this year and consequently money was taken from the larger schools like Lowell to support the schools with declining enrollment which are mostly elementary schools.

B. Update on Smarter Balanced Testing – The state has notified the district that the CST test will not be given this year. Instead, half of 11th graders will be given the Smarter Balanced English test and the other half will take the Smarter Balanced math test. Currently the administration does not know who is taking which test and how to schedule the testing. Although the district's goal is to test all 11th graders, there is a possibility that only 40 per cent of 11th graders will be tested. One of the challenges in administering the Smarter Balanced test is having enough computers for all the students to take the test. Dr. Marten commented that the Chromebooks worked in the pilot testing last year. However the district IT department doesn't want to support the Chromebooks even though Smarter Balanced will be allowing their use. Another testing issue is that although the district is not planning to give the EAP English, math and writing tests to 11th graders, the students still need access to these tests to submit to CSUs.

The district wants to administer the CST science test to all 10th graders. However, here at Lowell not all 10th graders take a science class and would therefore be tested in a subject that they have not taken since freshman year.

Mr. Chambers said that more information about testing will be forthcoming.

C. Items from the floor - none

VI. Adjournment- Ms. Melvin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Mastel seconded. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: December 9, 2013 or January 13, 2014.