



Park Spanish Immersion School
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 27, 2011
4:00-5:30 pm, (5:30-6:00 pm Parent) PSI Room 252

***“The impossible dream can only be accomplished in possible stages.”—
Author Unknown***

MINUTES

PART I—Welcome/Icebreaker (4:00-4:15 pm)

- Attendees introduced themselves and shared a personal or professional area of focus during the past month. In attendance were:
 - Corey Maslowski, PSI Principal
 - Carrie Jennissen, PSI Steering Committee Co-chair
 - Larry Shapiro, School Board liaison
 - Kathleen Dempsey, Student Activity Clubs Treasurer
 - Michelle Amelse, Community Events Co-chair
 - Kelly Bunte, PTO Secretary
 - Lisa Robinson, District Communications
 - Gwenn Bruse, Scholastic Book Fair, Community Events Co-chair, Room Parent Coordinator
 - Ann Odens, Amity Co-coordinator
 - Carrie Long, Parent Website
 - Barb Falzone, Volunteer Committee Co-chair
 - Jenny Strathman, PTO Co-chair
 - Lynn Giovannelli, PTO Co-chair
 - Judy Contreras, 2nd grade
 - Ricardo Franco, 5th grade
 - Heather Briant, Special Ed.
 - Chris Watkins, PE
 - Kara Scheid, 4th grade
 - Rosa Sala-Healey, kinder
 - Heather Lopez, 1st grade
 - Maria Ponce, 2nd grade
 - Kelly Albright-Raatz-Safe & Healthy Environment Committee Co-chair
- Meeting Norms were reviewed.

PART II—Grade Level/Committee Updates (4:15-4:30)

- Kelly-Safe & Healthy Environment Committee
 - Focus continues to be on nutrition & recycling
 - Additional efforts are being made with hand-washing
 - Will be posting public info about flu shots
 - Please consider serving on the district nutrition task force
- Gwenn-Book Fair
 - Book fair this week
 - Room parents are in place
 - Fall fiesta on October 31

- Corey, PSI Principal
 - Conferences went great, thanks to teachers and parents for partnering on the behalf of our students.
 - ESP task force update
 - Members were encouraged to stay informed via the district website
 - District will be soliciting feedback from the district at large, look for phone blast regarding this in the next couple of weeks
 - General scope and sequence: the task force will present 2-3 recommendations to the School Board with a pro/con list for each from task force, the board will ultimately vote on one proposal
 - MCA scores were sent home in a sealed envelope with students today
- Lisa Robinson, District Communications
 - School board elections are on Tuesday, Nov 8; 5 candidates, 4 seats
 - Schedule of listening sessions published on the district website, the first session is November 10 @ Aquila @ 5:30
- Larry Shapiro, School Board liaison
 - Noted that residents can come to any or all listening sessions, not just those hosted by your home school
 - SLP School District is beginning to look at opportunities for creating revenue via advertising dollars
- Heather Lopez
 - Leeraton is going great. Lots of excitement, students are motivated, parents are positive
- Kathleen Dempsey
 - Group of SLP students took part in an Honors Choir that spent part of MEA in Columbus, Ohio with Srta Lamb, kids did great!
- Carrie Jennissen
 - SLP again was voted 1 of 100 best communities for young people in US
 - We are only town in MN to get it 5 years in a row
- Ann Odens, Amity
 - 8 amities here, all are doing great
 - 2 leaving at winter break
 - 3 more are coming for a total of 9 second semester
 - Still need host 6 families for 2nd semester
- Lynn Giovannelli, PTO
 - International Fair is Tuesday, November 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the PSI Gym
 - Amities will participate by sponsoring a table and participating in a fashion show
 - Parent leads for this event: Ingrid Brown and Martha Thomson
- Jenny Strathman, PTO
 - PTO sponsored Literacy Night was a success
 - Author Phyllis Root took part in it I thought it was on Sally g's bday-, so delete this?
 - 10% of her book sales that night went back to the PSI Library
- Ricardo Franco
 - Eagle Bluff was great success
 - Corey gave a huge thanks to 5th grade team, Sally Goddard, Chris Watkins, parent volunteer Steve Pohlen, and all parent chaperones

PART III—Strategic Plan (4:30-5:30)

- Based on Steering Committee member input, the following action steps were recommended as top priorities for the 2011-12 school year:
 - Action Plan #1.1.2: District grade level teams to develop clear, common summative assessments, review them annually, and develop new ones as appropriate.
 - Action Plan 2.1.2: Provide more summer opportunities in Spanish to maintain Spanish in all grades.
 - Action Plan 2.2.4: Create and implement a system for formal evaluation of students' oral use of Spanish.

- Action Plan 3.1.2: Network with other immersion school staff (K-12), sharing resources and ideas about best practices.
- Action Plan 4.1.2: Promote parent-teacher collaboration in providing healthy snack options in the classrooms.
- In addition, it was recommended that an action step be added to address concerns about bullying. Language for this will be recommended at the November meeting
- Corey commented that much is already being done in these areas that we will be able to build on during the year; examples included:
 - Summer programs:
 - We will continue to offer summer library hours and summer reading incentives
 - The hope might be to promote 5-6 summer offerings to immersion students through community ed.
 - Oral use of Spanish
 - FAST assessment will be given this year
 - We are monitoring individual student progress in reading fluency, teachers will be working intensively w/students who need extra attention to bring them up to grade level
 - Network with other immersion school staff, sharing resources and ideas about best practices.
 - Would like to see an increase in networking K-12
 - Security & safety issues
 - Video cameras were added in the hallways, parking lots, basement; new system allows administration to view footage from anywhere in real time which allows us to more quickly deal with problems when they happen
 - Lock down capability is coming
 - Anti-Bullying
 - School is doing a lot in classrooms
 - Are there things we can offer families to give kids strategies for when they are off site and experience/witness bullying?
 - Recommended that we link to district bullying policy/statement
- Attendees broke into groups and were given the following guidelines:
 - A committee of teachers, leaders, parents, and students when appropriate will work on each action area throughout the school year
 - By the next meeting, each sub-committee will share
 - possible end of the year goals for assigned action area
 - Identify possible preliminary measurements

PART IV— Closure

PART V – Parent/Principal work time (5:30-6:00)

Park Spanish Immersion School provides a Spanish immersion education promoting academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, cultural understanding, and bilingualism in Spanish and English, while also involving the family and community in the development of lifelong learning.