

## CAC Minutes – Blanton Elementary

October 10, 2013

Members present: Laurel Wilson, Craig Hampton, Alicia Maxwell, Esther Tovar, Selandra Laabs, Andrea McIllwain, Jennifer Alejo, Sunny Hyde, Maggy McGiffert, Oneyda Hernandez, Maye Hattley, Erica Paramo, Tammy Kiara, Casilda Contreras, Michelle Vancil-Osborne

Patricia Rios, Jennifer Coffey, Michelle Salinas

- **Halloween**

- Should students be allowed to wear costumes on October 31?
  - Consensus: Costumes only encouraged at BOO FEST.
  - Students will have a “free dress” day on 10/31/13, NO COSTUMES

- **Mission, Vision, Values**

- Earlier this school year, teachers worked together to identify values they bring to Blanton
  - This activity helped teachers identify what motivates them to be here
- Committee formed to develop Mission, Vision, Values Statements
  - Ms.Coffey presents MVV statements to CAC committee
    - Mission: The Blanton Elementary community will work together to maximize student learning through the holistic development of all scholars so that they may exceed their potential.
    - Values: an emotionally and physically safe environment, high expectations, mutual respect, diversity, collaboration with the community, growth across all developmental domains, and ALL CHILDREN.
    - Vision: The Blanton Elementary community will create an engaging and active learning environment where students take ownership of their education and aspire to positively influence our world. As educators, we will model lifelong learning, collaboration, and respect. We will do whatever it takes to help our scholars succeed.
  - CAC: No changes needed, MVV statements approved.

- **Communication to Parents Regarding Upcoming Curriculum**

- Maggie McGiffert (parent): Parents want to know what topics different grades will be covering so that they can help out (books, resources, expertise, etc).
  - For instance, if there is a class that will be studying weather and there is a parent who is related to a meteorologist, they would help out by asking their relative to talk to that class about meteorology.
    - CAC teachers are open to the idea.
    - Question for CAC committee: How can we get information out to parents about what topics will be covered in the future?
    - Parent question: Would it be possible to send out a survey to ask parents what their expertise is and what resources they have readily available for teachers to supplement their lessons with?
  - CAC consensus: By 10/21/13, each grade level will create a document that contains a snapshot of the topics their grade will be covering for each subject for the next nine weeks. They will email this document to Baker. This document will be sent to each student in their Thursday folders on 10/24/13. Teachers will make copies for all students in their class and distribute. A compiled list of all topics from PK-5 will be placed on the parent bulletin board so that parents who would like to help various grade levels can be informed about all future topics.

- **Social Emotional Opportunities Committee**

- Question: How can we provide social emotional opportunities for our students?
- Michelle (Mr.Spear's wife) is writing a grant for a peer mediation program at Blanton.
  - This would be a great leadership opportunity for our students.
- Question: What else can be done in addition to the grant?
  - Parent input: Maplewood Elementary in AISD gives out a weekly peacemaker award. Perhaps this could also be done at Blanton and it could be awarded on the morning newscast.
  - Other ideas:

- Contreras mentioned teacher mentors possibility. (Nice philosophy but difficult to manage.)
  - PALS?
  - Mentors. Osborne suggests state agencies.
- Osborne will contact different places and refer all mentor possibilities to Rios.
- **Dual Language Connection to the Whole School**
  - Dual language parent input: Parents want to be considered one big team and they want Blanton campus to know they are here to support all students.
  - Question: How can parents communicate to bring everyone together?
    - Suggestion: Each classroom teacher could recruit two homeroom parents.
  - Question: How can we increase parental involvement?
    - Suggestion: Change the formality of parent meetings
    - Suggestion: ESL classes for Spanish parents and Spanish classes for English parents so that all parents can communicate with each other.
    - We should try to refrain from depending on the same parents all the time.
    - Spanish CAC parent input: We need more bilingual meetings.
    - Parent input: Somehow we could try having “Parent bilingual partners”.
    - Parent input: “We are missing out on a greater opportunity” (if full advantage is not taken of the dual language atmosphere and the diversity at Blanton.)
    - Parent input: Teachers can figure out which parents really want to get involved.
    - Question: Should teachers recruit room parents or should parents recruit more parents?

- CAC consensus: Teachers will recruit two room parents and email names to Baker. These parents will then be contacted and a committee will be formed. We will revisit and continue discussion on this topic at the next CAC meeting.

- **Uniform closet**

- Blanton PTA would like to house a uniform closet in their portable.
  - Question: How will the uniforms be organized?
  - Question: How can we let the Blanton community know that they can recycle their old uniforms?
  - Question: How will distribution of used uniforms be organized?