

MINUTES FROM
PARENT ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 21, 2017

- I. Call to order
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes
- III. Principal's Report
 - a. Letter from Dep Chancellor Rose: PEP vote postponed and Verdiner received letter from DC Rose. TCCS granted 1-year extension to stay in our building. In conversation with Rose she was open to thinking outside box. Verdiner told her co-location not a good fit. After the hearing and hearing the effects, Verdiner did not feel co-location a good fit. If we have 6th Grade here, there will be sacrifices. Verdiner does not want to lose kindergarten class. Verdiner expressed to Rose that her duty to make sure 6th graders have a true middle school experience. Budgets have not been answered. Because we are here, Verdiner will only get budget for 1 year. Verdiner is confident TC will help with picking up some of the slack from not having enough students. Closed enrollment – only students that are able to come to 6th grade will be current 5th grade students. Since we don't have official building, enrollment says its not

fair to offer seats to other students. There may be some leeway if we find that we only have a few students in 6th grade, but Verdiner still exploring. Many 5th grade families are opting to return, but they have other choices.

- i. Currently 32 5th graders. Not considered overcrowded. If Verdiner has 32 students then she will have 2 sections.
 - ii. Verdiner can combine 5 and 6.
 - iii. 178 applications for middle school. 149 from D5 and D6 including our students. Rest from D3 and D1.
- b. Chanc Farinha was here last week. Teachers worked extra hard. She wanted to meet with rep/SLT and wanted to do walk through of the classrooms. She was impressed with quality of writing on bulletin boards. Lucy Calkin was her former staff developer so she is familiar with TC. She saw a partnership reading. She noticed the diversity. She commented on the cleanliness and also on our challenges with space. She was impressed with evidence of sharing of work with D11. At the meeting she congratulated us with coming up with our own solution. They are continuing to look for space. DOE and others trying to make the space at UTS work, but not safe, only 1 bathroom and 4 floors. She challenged us to try to use our current space in different ways. With budget cuts, we won't be able to lease

space. PS 36 maybe back on the table next year. We want to be in close proximity to TC and TCCS.

- i. Mott Hall not set in stone, so maybe that is still an option down the line.
- ii. PA Board will ask parents to submit ideas for buildings.
- iii. Chancellor never indicated that middle school and elementary school would all be housed in one building.
- iv. Chancellor believes that elementary and middle school should be separate.
- v. What does it mean when Chancellor says to make it work? Resited our prek building. Ex. If our prek building was offsite at PS 36 that would be our preK and that would free up a room. PreK shares same supervisor and resources. This would free up a room. We could use our library. Not all schools have a library. Verdiner could split into two rooms. If 5th and 6th grade more fluid would free up space. Malt Building not viable would take years to fix it.
- vi. Takeaways from meeting: Verdiner applied for leadership partnership program: with 2 other schools. PS 11 one of the mentor schools and he encouraged Verdiner to apply. In second phase of application. Chancellor will put in a word

to partner up with another school. There's a facilitator and budgeting. More blueprint for success. Another person who came was blown away with level of work and visited every classroom. Will hear from them in May.

- vii. Algebra for All: provides special development for algebra. Need to make sure teachers are ready. Another free initiative to make sure support is there. We got accepted to Algebra for All.
- viii. Looked at 1st Grade work and blown away at level of writing and pictures. Chancellor pointed out that pictures are underdeveloped. She asked if we have art teacher. Chancellor said we have to have art, so she mentioned Studio School. They have curriculum. They require us to have our own room, so Verdiner didn't apply. Chancellor said she will speak to them. She suggested we could do this for PreK-2nd. Superintendent suggested we partner with PS161 and share resources. Nancy will check with another TC Department about art resources.
- ix. Christine Kovich: TC has space for early childhood. If they took Prek and find space and we can convince faculty, that would be space for PreK.

- x. Jen Silverman: What about idea of not having prek at all. Verdiner was asked this and she doesn't think that this is okay right now.
 - xi. Verdiner thinking that middle school be 1 class, then we could stay here.
Ramification is that money comes from State and its per child. DOE money used for human resources and TC money is used for everything else. Verdiner we can make it happen to stay in this building, but we need to think creatively.
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- c. Bernstein back.
 - d. Mathletics software program 2-5th grade.
Teachers got trained. Can be used for differentiating our math. Verdiner will be looking at data usage. It an international program with UNICEF. They can find compete within classroom, across grade and with kids from other countries. Aligned with common core standards. Not just rote learning.
Technology if you are offline it will save what you worked on. Works on all computers include ipad.
 - e. Math Coaching Will have 4 wk coaching starting in May for 2nd grade. All kids invited and will have differentiated learning.
 - f. 2nd-5th Grade using laptops.
 - g. PBIS need more supplies

- h. Parent Survey – great response. Only had 20% of parents do this online.
 - i. PLP on Friday, but Coffee with Principal is cancelled due to Professional Development.
 - j. 5th Grade moving up ceremony date has been picked. Parent suggesting a moving up certification award for all students.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
- V. Co-Presidents' Report
- VI. School Leadership Team Report: No additional update from SLT.
- VII. Committee Updates
- a. Community Service Survey
 - b. Women's Panel: PA decided to do this May 12, the Friday before Mother's Day. Maybe we do similar Father's panel in June. We will confirm time. Will have volunteers with various professional careers. Students can ask questions.
 - c. Cultural Potluck Celebration – We will want to have celebration. May 17th will be curriculum night and we will combine with cultural potluck. Will represent food from all cultures.
 - d. Cinco de Mayo – tickets on sale.
 - e. PA Class Dues Winner 1-205
 - f. Pictures: 3 different vendors. Vote will be taken next meeting.
 - g. Yearbook: Using treeing. Each parent can individualize 2 pages. If you choose not to you

will get standard 40 page book. Send pictures to general PA email.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Expansion/Co-Location Update
 - i. Letter from Dep. Chancellor Rose dated March 16, 2017
- b. Women's History Month
- c. TCCS Cultural Day Potluck Celebration
- d. PA Dues Class Winner 1-205-
 - i. Question on participation.

IX. New Business

- a. Common Core: PA Board will send eblast. Need full participation and talk to kids about writing out their work.
- b. Vote on selection of School Picture Vendor for 2017/18
- c. Council Member Mark Levine's Participatory Budget Ballots - vote on how to spend \$1m in Council District 7! List of 11 projects and people from District can vote on how to spend the budget. The voting age is 14 and must be resident.

X. Adjournment