

APPLEGATE SCHOOL

THREE RIVERS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Applegate Site Council Minutes

11/30/2015

Members Present: Vicki Distefano,, Teacher; Jim Scull; Teacher, Casey Embury, Parent; Darrell Erb Jr., Principal;

Members Absent: Sadie Emmons, Parent

Guests: Jill Howdyshell, Teacher

Old Business:

- A. Site council followed up on discussion regarding the ways in which Applegate communicates out to parents. Focus was on the purchase of a reader board, and whether or not the school would get the "bang for buck" needed given the cost. Consideration was given to placement of the reader board, which would be in an office window, which is at apex of the "horseshoe drive" which every parent drives when dropping off and picking up students.

It was decided it was a good idea to purchase the reader board, as the major percentage of parents drive their students to school at Applegate, and the reader board would be easily seen by all. Further, the reader board would contain more timely information than the reader board down at road level, but is limited to monthly events. The Council asked Mr. Erb to further research prices and to move forward with this purchase.

- B. Discussion also of intra-school communications, and increasing the number of positive messages students receive throughout their day at Applegate. This discuss turned to the potential value of purchase of larger screen for student communications in café', and Mr. Scull pointed out there is an existing screen already in place if we wanted to use a projector to broadcast pictures of students doing school work, on field trips, playing inter-scholastic sports, participating at recess, as well as announcements, important dates, etc. could be publicized. Cameras which can download to a laptop are



already available. Site Council asked Mr. Erb to initiate a process through which such messaging could take place.

New Business:

- A. Professional Development Fridays (PD Fridays) were discussed – Mr. Erb informed the Council that to date, all Fridays have been used for training for teachers and/or educational assistants on topics relating directly to teaching and learning. Exceptions have been training on the use of Student Growth Percentiles and Median Growth Percentiles in setting Student Growth Goals, and training on teacher websites to assist our teachers in building their own websites. These topics were chosen and coordinated by the PD Committee comprised of teachers and classified staff from both Williams and Applegate. The PD Committee is scheduled to meet in the second week of December at Williams to plan further trainings into the new year.

Mr. Erb explained to the Council that at the beginning of the school year, teachers signed up for committees on which to serve, but that given the packed daily schedule, there have been some committees which are having difficulty meeting. Existing committees include Safety, which meets monthly, SITE Council, PBIS, and Social Committee. That there has been no formal calendar for committee meetings, for a number of years at Applegate seems to be holding up progress as we add events and new aspects to our existing programs.

Discussion turned to the potential for use of one Friday per month for committees to convene, as it has proven more than difficult for teachers to find time for the many committees which exist and which do important work for our staff and students. The SITE Council requested that Mr. Erb explore this possibility at the district level.

- B. The Parent Teacher Student Group (PTSG) has been busy this year raising funds, and has offered to purchase new equipment for the playground on the middle school side. There are only two swings, nothing to climb upon, and little to do but play basketball or four-square, which are popular but too crowded. The PTSG pledged up to \$2,500 for this equipment. The Council asked Mr. Erb to follow up with PTSG to work out exactly what will be purchased and to move forward until the equipment is in place.



- C. Rainy Day Recess: Mr. Scull reported that parents have raised a concern that students are not getting the opportunity to “blow off steam” during rainy day recess. The lunch configuration has changed this year – with lunches combined, there is less inside room. The SITE Council agreed that an initial response would be to allow students with coast to go outside on days when it is not raining hard and to abide by a “no mud/no grass” guideline. Mr. Erb said this approach has worked at other schools he’s been at, and it is important kids get to move about during lunch. This response should mean more outside time for kids and more energy expended. The “too rainy to go outside” call will be made by our head custodian, who is present in the lunch room each day. The SITE Council agreed to re-discuss this issue early in the new year to see what else can be done. Mr. Scull agreed to create a ½ page flyer to send home to parents to let them know of this development.
- D. Current events were discussed: the lead story is the upcoming Christmas Program scheduled December 17 at 6 pm in the Cougar Gym.
1. Art n Nature will offer lavender bouquets for sale during December for \$3.
 2. Our school raised over 13,500 dollars from the Jog-a-Thon!
 3. The Applegate Library Book Fair will be held December 14-18.
 4. Boys Basketball is having a great season – just one loss. Sports have been successful in terms of wins and losses this year – the Applegate volleyball varsity team was undefeated.
 5. The December Holiday Meal will be held Wed. Dec. 16 – family members are encouraged to join their students for this traditional meal.
 5. Professional Development Fridays will be held Fridays Dec. 4, 11 & 18.

