

## **PSCC Minutes, March 26, 2009**

### 1. Introductions

2. On-site afterschool program: Rozi Epstein, teacher at Linden for 28 years, retiring in June; has always been interested in starting her own school or academic program; speaks Spanish & German; teaches reading & language arts at Linden as well as German. Started a program in 2000 at CMU on Saturdays, did 3 years of summer camp for about 150 students: swimming, sports, writing, drama.

Goal for afterschool program is both enrichment and support in any problem areas. Call the program "Afterschool Kids College" – family business, daughter teaches music, husband a PPS science teacher (also retiring).

Logistics: 3:25-6pm, Monday-Friday; half-hour leeway given with no extra charge. Cost per child, \$220/month, no late charge. Offer drop-in service \$20/day.

Goal: wants the children to be engaged, work on creative writing, math, sports, etc.

Questions:

1. Open on days when Colfax is closed? Probably not, if building is closed.
2. Age separation? A: Kids close in grade may be together, but separate groups for middle-schoolers and elementary grades maintained.
3. Less than 5 days a week available, less than 3 hours/day? Fewer than 5 days/week available, fewer than 3 hours day less likely (difficult to pro-rate hourly requirements)
4. What about very minimal requirements, like 2 hours 2 days a week? Will depend on enrollment, willing to be flexible, but can't commit to pricing for that at this point.
5. Where would the program be located w/in the school? Answer from DMS: that would depend on the needs of the school programs (clubs, sports, etc.) – Colfax would work with this or any on-site program to identify suitable spaces.
6. Would program start in the fall? DMS: yes, that's the plan, but it depends on sufficient enrollment.
7. Discount for multiple kids? Twenty percent off for additional children.

### 3. Update on Achievement Gap Working Group:

A) Met last Tuesday (3/17), will meet next Tuesday for study group session (3/31) in the Music Room. DMS is providing copies "Courageous Conversations" for reading and discussion.

B) Parent Volunteer Training Session: Tuesday, April 14, 3:45 and 6:45 pm (2 identical sessions). Mark Beck and Jenny Kellmann will provide training in literacy issues for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade for interested volunteers, focusing on word-building and phonemic-awareness activities. After the training, Mark will hold a

follow-up meeting to get feedback on how the techniques are working for the volunteers. Using this spring as a pilot to work out the kinks, the goal is to offer a well-developed, tested program for parent volunteers in the fall.

DMS thinks this is an important PSCC activity and could really make a difference for our school.

4. Schedule Change Announcement: The school schedule is different from previously announced (due to bus schedule conflicts), school runs from 8:15am (new start) to 3:25am (revised from 3:10). The building will open at 8:10 for children not eating breakfast.

5. Looping 2008-2009: 5<sup>th</sup> -> 3<sup>rd</sup>; 3<sup>rd</sup> -> 4<sup>th</sup>; 4<sup>th</sup> -> 5<sup>th</sup>; there will be one open 5<sup>th</sup> grade position. Although looping generally preserves homerooms from year to year, with Total School Cluster Grouping being implemented as part of the Gifted Pilot. The looping is oriented to reading & math, but there is in practice some looping for science and social studies (i.e., teacher continuity). Although the effect of Total School Cluster Grouping is still in the works, it is anticipated that, just as now, classrooms will move throughout the day together.

Anticipate 4 rounds in K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> in 2009-10 with the possibility of a 4<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class, but that is not official.

6. Budget 2008-2009: Student allocation from central office is 650 even though current enrollment is 670, and there are 4 projected kindergartens for next year. Result: additional 5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching position, request in for 4<sup>th</sup> second grade teacher, eliminating 2 of 4 paraprofessionals, eliminating pupil services assistant, eliminating Spanish program.