

Pittsburgh Colfax ALA
PSSC Meeting Minutes
January 14th
7:00-9:00

The meeting began with brief introductions.

Bullying Survey Update:

David May-Stein and Diane Condie shared results from the bullying survey

The following results were shared and discussed:

Surveys from students in grades 3 and 4 contain conflicting information. It is possible that students didn't fully understand the questions. For instance, a few students reported in question one that they didn't experience bullying but would list areas of the school where they were bullied.

Some students feel unsafe during recess and lunch.

Informal conversations with some students revealed that students being accused of bullying others claim that they are just playing.

Students report that the hallways seem to be areas where bullying occurs.

Did everyone complete the survey? Survey numbers aren't consistent with current enrollment.

Middle level students didn't report high instances of bullying.

Principal, May-Stein agreed to provide a more detailed summary to the group during the next meeting. The idea of having a graduate student further study the bullying concerns was mentioned. Parents suggest surveying teachers, parents and other school adults to get their perspective on the bullying concerns. Another suggestions was made to separate students by gender to discuss bullying.

Colfax teachers will receive survey results during the upcoming PD session on February 4th

Teachers and administrators will analyze data to revisit current behavior plan and create a new plan of action to address bullying concerns.

Conversation about the culture of non bus students vs. bussed students arose.

Principal, May-Stein talked about an incentive idea to encourage teachers to volunteer their time to assist with lunch.

Classroom Technology Update:

Colfax parent, Jenny Ganger will be heading a committee of parents to discuss technology issues. This group is open to interested parents.

\$10,000 donation from the PTO will be used to purchase 10 laptops. Purchase will happen in the next few weeks.

District should incorporate a typing program to ensure that all students are Promise -Ready. Principal, May-Stein will investigate wireless capabilities to avoid the use of the wireless carts. 20 new desk top computers were given to Colfax by the district. Computers were disseminated in classrooms and will be used by students.

A suggestion was made to examine the use of Smart Boards.

Provisions were made for Ms. Walker to allow her students to use laptops without the use of the cart, since the cart is too heavy to take to her classroom.

Personnel Updates:

Ms. Szlepak, a former paraprofessional has returned. Ms. Szlepak will support primary teachers. Mrs. Wallace, vice- principal will be relocating to North Carolina to take a job with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School district. Her last day at Colfax will be Wednesday, January 20, 2010

A new information processor, Tandra Smith has been hired and will join the staff on Wednesday, January 20, 2010. Ms. Smith will work in the office three days a week to manage attendance, grades and student enrollment.

Courageous Conversations and Looking Forward

The study group examining the Courageous Conversations text concluded. A few members shared their new learning with the group. The hope is that this work will continue. Original members will co-facilitate new groups. Parents and school adults are invited to participate in upcoming groups. The Colfax staff began reading the book and will continue as the year proceeds. The book will be used a tool to discuss the achievement gap at Colfax.

5. Miscellaneous

Where do we stand with Title 1? Principal May-Stein informed the group that he would find out about Colfax's Title 1 status and 2010-2011 budget in the next few weeks and would share the results with group. The projected enrollment for next year is at 697, which is an increase of about 47 students from last year.

EFA group is working on an assignment to survey parents about facility issues in their perspective schools. Members were given the charge to identify three concerns that they would like to change in their schools and report back. A suggestion was made to create a small committee to gather information and make recommendations. Questions were asked about creating additional space for a computer lab. The basement area in the new building was also mentioned as an area to add additional classrooms or computer labs. An additional suggestion was made to spend 10 minutes at the next PSCC meeting to continue this conversation.