

## **PTSC MEETING MINUTES**

**May 5, 2010**

**Attending:** Lupe Martinez; Sherry Garcia; Lisa Flynn; Janet Sones; Jodie Wheeler; Kira Flynn; Ed Woodd; Ann Noble; Wendy Bowman; Shari Griswold; Jerry Wellman; Thomas Kleiner; Jane Boriack; Karla Roybal; Devon Skeele; Holly Grant; Thomas Sandoval; Shaun Barrous; Grent Bonwell; Thomas Kleiner; Meriam Jawhar; Julia Dangaran, Darlene Vigil; Vicki Hutchison; Gary Coles-Christensen; Nina Mastrangelo; Chad and Amy Kieffer; Vince Jaramillo; M. Angela Mejina(?); Gabe and Regina Ramirez; John Kieling; Jim and Jenninifer Mallory; Jim and Jackie Rose; Alicia Huerta.

Meeting called to order at 6:11 p.m. by President Lupe Martinez. Welcomed everyone and talked about the need to elect new officers for the 10-11 school year.

**Old Business:** None

**Plant Sale:** Ann Noble presented information on the plant sale. So far sold about \$8300 plants this year. That's 65 students. If each student sold \$100 the total sales would equal \$30K. We should clear \$4-5K this year. We will meet at the Genoveva Chavez at 9 a.m. to sort plans. On Saturday people come pick up their plants and we have volunteers but the more the merrier. We will need people to ferry plants from Ann's house to the Chavez center since they are delivering to her house. We will need to provide lunch. We might want to think about having snacks/baked goods next year. We have 200 geraniums for sale and we will have some plants for sale from left-overs from flats. We will try to put up posters and a middle of the road sign to bring people in.

Director Woodd presented information about three items. 1) Block schedule; 2) New middle school model and 3) budget.

**Block schedule Presentation:** (Much of this information is a repeat from the March meeting presentation). Had a transition team that met to look at the block schedule. This committee looked at different models for block schedules. The idea is to slow the day down and give more time to learn. Concept is based in research. Research has shown that students can learn more when they focus on depth instead of just breadth.

They researched various options and listed pros and cons. Next year the schools will be on 180 instructional days. They will also be on a six hour of instruction day next year. The state requires 24 credits to graduate and we require 26, 3 years of math, we require 4 years. 28 credits will be offered under the block schedule.

Advantages are:

- Less hectic day: three classes one day and three the next.
- Fewer students each day for teachers.
- Greater scheduling flexibility.
- Less fragmentation.
- Increased time for creative lessons and more student involvement.
- Less time lost to packing up and getting started.
- Better meets the needs of different learning styles. Differentiated learning.
- Reduction in time lost to passing periods.
- More student/teacher interactions.

- More time available for dual enrollment to take classes off campus. Just developed an MOU with IAIA. Students will have to pay for their courses there since no reimbursement from the state like other schools.
- Don't have to have the Districts' permission to do this.

Schools with block schedules can have reductions in discipline referrals, increase in 4.00 students, reduction in tardies, increase in students on the honor roll, and fewer suspensions.

**Our Suggestions:** Move to a block schedule Require one cross/intra-curricular teaching class per teacher. Have a 6 period block schedule Retain graduation requirements at 26 credits WE DO NOT ACCEPT FAILURE AS AN OPTION TOWARDS SUCCESS

All teachers will have a teacher prep period at the start of each day from 8:15 to 9:15. The purpose of the prep period is to work as a team for cross curricular work or to measure student progress. Every student's progress will be followed. This sacred teacher prep time means that kids can't get here before 9:00 a.m. Period 1 and 2 are 95 minutes, and then there is lunch. Then there is a 50 minute class that all students have every day. This class will allow support for special needs students and there may be other classes that are better suited to daily schedule like foreign language.

On week 1, day 1,3,5 will be classes 1,2,3. On week 1, day 2 & 4, will be classes 4,5, and 6. Then week 2 switches this so that all classes meet the same amount. These are called "A" and "B" days. We also considered year round school but this will be something that won't be implemented without parent input.

Examples of cross curricular class would be math and philosophy. Another would be computer design, sound production and other aspects. There are several that have been proposed but this may be limited the first year.

50 minute daily classes will be classes for remedial math, foreign language, study skills and possibly electives.

**Issue/Suggestion:** Students cannot show up early to school as there will be no one available to supervise them. ATC doesn't have a lot of options regarding the moratorium on early arrivals at school because it would cost money to hire someone to monitor the students. Perhaps there could be a before school program that parents pay for. If this doesn't work out, students can be dropped off after 8:30.

Two hour delays: If you are in school at least 3 hours it counts as a full day. But snow days do change the schedule and can be confusing.

Requests: Class schedules can be found online or call Mr. Woodd. A parent suggested a parent meeting to discuss dual enrollment. Can we post this presentation online so parents can take a look at it.

This is a high school schedule. The middle school teachers got together and decided to implement STEM classes: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. On day one you have a math and science class and a STEM class that ties them together. ATC is trying to have the curriculum have meaning for the students. Polly White will be the coordinator of the STEM process.

- Q: Is this LANL's STEM program? A: We are looking into which one we use. Day 2 would be English, Social Studies and Humanities day.
- Q: Where will PE and art tie into this schedule? A: It will be in the stem class on the humanities days.
- Q: Will the STEM program move into the upper grades? A: Maybe, depends on how it works this next year.
- Q: Will students still have time for electives? A: Yes.
- Q: Is Latin going to be offered? A: No Latin will be gone and be replaced by Spanish.

**Budget:** ATC had to cut approximately \$200K from the budget for next year. We are not replacing all the teachers that are leaving. Classes will be approximately 2 students bigger. A class won't materialize next year if there aren't 15 students. They can take classes other places. All teachers will have comparable class sizes next year instead of some with very large class loads and others with many fewer class loads. ATC had to eliminate one office staff position and absorb those duties. ATC is starting an English Language Learner (ELL) program next year and already hired the teacher for that who is very talented. This will bring in funding from the state and federal governments in a couple of years. This may support Spanish language program in the middle school.

ATC is the only school that is not laying off teachers next year in the district.

There were questions and discussion about the portable building from IAIA and uses of the portable if ATC gets it. Good news is there has been a phenomenal response to the request for parent volunteers to help move, set up and prepare the building including electricians, painting, schematics, etc. Also the Foundation is working with a fund raiser to work on raising the money to finish the rest of the building as it was planned and the space that's needed for a school that is 20 students from capacity.

Discussion about dual enrollment options next year.

**Elections:** Lupe discussed that the by-laws require that we have all new officers this year and the role (non role) of the PTSC related to the school. We raise money for projects; help with projects such as cleaning up the school. We don't deal with issues with teachers (that gets referred to the administration). Most of the ex-officers will still be around for transition and assistance. We can meet in the summer to change the signers on the bank account and the paperwork. We try to keep things simple, request, vote, receipts, and reimbursement.

**Special Thanks to the current officers:** Lupe Martinez, President; Lisa Flynn, VP; Janet Sones, Treasurer; Sherry Garcia, Secretary; Wendy Bowman, Communications Officer and Ann Noble who coordinates the plant sale. Mr. Woodd asked that these officers get recognized for their time, effort and dedication to the PTSC and ATC.

**Nominations:**

President: **Shari Griswold** (moved and seconded) Passed Unanimously

Secretary: **Miriam Jawhar** : Passed Unanimously

Treasurer: **Jane Boriack**: Passed Unanimously

Communication Officer: **Jodie Wheeler**

Student Rep: Needs to be elected by Student Council

**Representatives to the Governing Council: Jerry Wellman** willing to take over Sherry Garcia's remaining term on the Governing Council and nominated **Gary Coles-Christensen**; parent of incoming 7th grader for his term which ends in September. These were both approved by the PTSC. Kira Flynn: Not able to be the student rep next year and we need a new student rep who is the liaison between PTSC and Student Council. Asked Kira to present to SC and obtain the name of a student representative.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by outgoing Secretary, Sherry Garcia