



Thornton Creek Site Council Regular Meeting  
November 10, 2015 7 pm

**Welcome**

Attendees: Stacy Earlywine, Chair; Cathy Liermann, Vice Chair; John Miner, Principal; Krista Zitnick, Co-Treasurer; Dion Hutchings, District Relations Committee; Erica Lerer; Cheryl Lorenz; Lisa Skylynd, Hospitality Committee; Robin Belz, Co-Treasurer; Jenny Stewart, Teacher; Sandra Brettler, Teacher; Lena Jones; Rob Freer; Erin Nelson; Becky Howsmon; Lori Fujimoto, Teacher; Liz Robinson, Teacher; Katie Zissermann, Teacher; Susie Bunker; Rachel Brooks, District Relations Committee; Renee Lamphere; Ashley Pedersen; Bill Reilly, Communications Committee; Chris Dickens, Curriculum Committee; Archana Bhat; Kristina Miller, Counselor; Lisa Anacker, Secretary; Jon Ladd; Roger Taylor; Rebecca Wittmann; Tim Fonken; Jonathan Shade; Susan Rosebrough

**Teacher Talk (7:05-7:15) – Teachers**

**Teacher Transition Team**-Katie Zissermann-the focus will be on maintaining the school's identity while moving and growing; will be including parents and asking for help

**“How to Get the Most Out of Your Parent Teacher Conference”** (handout given)

- Conferences have a tight schedule, please be on time
- Come prepared with strengths and challenges and goals

Liz Robinson stated that due to the late start this year; teachers are just wrapping up the first 6 weeks.

Lori Fujimoto suggested reassuring your child before the conference.

A parent asked about how much of the conference is student led. Sandra Brettler said that 4/5 conferences are student led and the child needs to come up with their goal or challenge for the year. K/1 conferences can have some adult only time built in.

**Principal's Report (7:15 – 7:35)**

- **Academic Assistant Funding Request**

The teachers are seeing a need for more academic assistants and have made a budget request for \$25,000. Robin Belz-not ready to vote on this today. Creating the budget last year was challenging and already included an increase from \$250,000 to \$290,000. She would like to meet with the teachers and also look into if this has any relation to the loss of tutoring services. She is also concerned about the sustainability of the increase.

- **Instructional Assistants for Special Education**

We will now have 2 Instructional Assistants in each self-contained class, not including the 1 on 1 assistants. We have 1 instructional assistant, down from 2. We will need to work on

scheduling to adjust to this as the IEPs written last year were based on 2 instructional assistants. There are 3 IAs in the new access program and we should push for a 4<sup>th</sup> as we are over enrolled by 3 students.

- **Creative Approach Schools**

Thornton Creek is 1 of 6 Creative Approach Schools. At the next board meeting, this will be a topic of discussion. Eliminating CA schools was in the districts contract proposal but was rejected. We should be watching this issue and be ready to advocate.

- **Alternative School Designation**

The board has been going through policies and looking at the language in them. One of the policies is C54/designation of alternative schools. John attended a meeting where enrollment planning is asking for input on what is necessary to keep in the policy.

- **Start Time change**

Thornton Creek's start time is expected to change next year to 8:00am. A parent brought up that View Ridge and Laurelhurst were unhappy with their later start time and wondered about the possibility of switching.

- **Parent Tours**

There will be 2 coordinators to help parent volunteers give tours. They are looking at how to shift the focus to the program rather than the building space.

- **Construction Challenges**

Roofing work has stopped until the district purchases an after burner for the subcontractor. This should decrease the vapor and smoke from the tar pot.

#### **Winter Bazaar Preview (7:35 – 7:40) – Robin Belz**

- To be held on 12/11 at 1:00 pm for student and classroom vendors
- After school there will be outside vendors, a cake walk and pizza for sale in the lunchroom
- Sign-ups will be online this year

#### **Read-a-Thon update (7:40 – 7:45) – Erin Nelson**

Due to loss of field space, we will be having a Read-a-Thon fundraiser instead of the Walk-a-Thon. The kick-off for the Read-a-Thon is Friday, November 13, 2015. There will be an assembly including a skit by LaChrista Borgers and Mim Turnbull and a video going over what students can read and who to ask for donations. Every child is asked to read 30 minutes a day for 30 days. A thermometer will be outside the office to track the school's progress. On Friday, students will bring home a calendar, stickers, bookmark and list of anticipated questions and answers and a pledge sheet. Pledges can be either a flat amount or based on a per minute rate. There will be an online form for entering in how many minutes have been read at the end of each week. Donations can be made by check or online.

#### **Hour of Code (7:45 – 7:50) – Katie Zissermann**

Hour of Code is a national program that includes coding activities ranging from simple to complex. This will be incorporated into student's library time the week of 12/7/15. Students in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade will be doing offline activities. There may be a call for volunteers to help at the event.

#### **Staff Report (7:50 – 8:00)**

- Parent Education Night had over 60 attendees. Kristina is taking feedback on the speaker.
- Teachers are working on setting comprehensive and focused goals. They are working in teams.

#### **Chair's Report (8:00 – 8:05) – Stacy Earlywine**

- Stacy will be asking for classroom reps to come to Site Council meetings and relay

information to parents in their classrooms.

- The finance committee is looking for volunteers.
- The December meeting will be off-site at the Bryant Cafe

### **Committee Reports (8:05 – 8:45)**

#### **District Relations**– *Rachel Brooks*

##### Committee Priorities

- **Advocating for Special Education Service Delivery**-looking at student ratios, advocating for teachers, humanizing Special Education, Thornton Creek Special Education students make up 25% of the student body.
- **Mitigating Enrollment Growth**
- **Residency of Decatur building after move**-will not be occupied until 2017-2018 school year; will look into compatibility issues surrounding playground space and bell times.
- **Creative Approach Status**-advocate, talk to other CA schools, make a connection with Jill Geary, possibly host a separate meeting

#### **Curriculum**– *Chris Dickens*

- **Tutoring**-investigating logistics, billing, where the problems were
- **Possible teacher survey**
- **Looking to move into ideas on how to go forward**

#### **Transition Team**– *Susie Bunker*

- **Playground Design**-working with the architect before site work begins
- **Traffic Safety**-looking at where students live, working with SDOT for best solutions; crosswalks; encourage everyone to park safely
- **How to Carry who Thornton Creek is over to the new building with increased population**

#### **Hospitality Committee** – *Lisa Skylynd*

- **Pies for Teachers**-good response, set up Thursday afternoon, pies can be dropped off at Kids Time on Friday morning as well.

#### **Enrichment Committee**–

- Working on getting surveys out

#### **Treasurer's Report (8:45 – 8:55)** – *Robin Belz and Krista Zitnick*

- **Income**-next month Read-A-Thon money will be coming in
- **Expenses**-purchasing more nursing time, academic assistants, instrumental music, scholarships; spent more money than brought in which is typical at this point in the school year
- **Finance Committee**-would like to get a better handle on how decisions are made and how line items are spent. Robin gave the example of “Staff Development” money which did not get spent. She is wondering if there are access issues and would like to meet with teachers to discuss.

#### **Approval of October meeting minutes (8:55 – 9:00)** – *Stacy Earlywine*

**Vote held:** unanimous vote of agree and consent.

**Adjourn (9 pm)**



