



School council – School Year 2017-18 - Second meeting

Monday January 8, 2018

Minutes by Mark Rosenblum (MR)

In attendance:

Members: Directors- Administration Representative- Parents and Teachers who represent cycle 1234 – PA president or other PA representative – Head Room Parent – Student representatives from Elementary and Middle School.

Chair: Mark Rosenblum (MR)

Administrators and Administrative staff representative:

Bénédicte Brouder (BB), Francis Carlier (FC), Véronique Bevali (VB), Babette Esterly (BE)

Parents:

Cycle 4: Patty Soto (PS)

Cycle 3: Luana McAuliffe (LM) not present; represented by Héloïse Brodin (HB)

Cycle 2: Héloïse Brodin (HB)

Cycle 1: Amparo Young (AY)-not present.

P.A. President: Lydia Inostroza (LI) not present; represented by Mark Rosenblum (MR)

Head Room Parent: Héloïse Brodin (HB)

Teachers:

Cycle 4: Barbara Regan (BR)

Cycle 3: Cathleen Anderson (CA) or Emmanuel Parello (EP)

Cycle 2: Caroline Dumas (CD) or Murielle Brimaldi (MB)

Cycle 1: Anne-Sophie Nguyen-Tregouet (ASNT)

Students:

7th grade: 7A Jean-Baptiste Vidon, Nicolas Redon; 7B Saliha Choma, John Guckian

5th grade: 5A Thomas Vidon 5A Noé Pegulu

Agenda & Minutes

I. SCHOOL CALENDAR

A-Review and validation by majority vote of pre-approved 2018-19 school calendar

Option 1 pre-approved already last year was briefly discussed and unanimously approved. Calendar was shared with the community on January 9 via MSP message. Minimal feedback so far except that this approved 2018-19 calendar presents a challenge to working families with respect to school start date, school end date and December-January vacation start and end date. School Council should carefully consider this issue in the future. Another piece of feedback received concerns the lack of federal holidays accorded within the SDFAS school calendar – another issue for the School Council to carefully consider in the future.

B-Discussion of two different school calendar proposals for 2019-20 with pre-approval after discussion by majority vote

Option 1 pre-approved by unanimous vote after analysis, discussion and an approved-by-vote modification to the proposed Spring Break start day.

II. UPDATES AND REPORTS

A- From Head of School on recent or upcoming programs or events

January: PK0 photos on Thursday January 11; Re-enrollment process begins on Tuesday January 16th (deadline February 28; Financial Aid application deadline is February 2nd); Sarah Leboyer will return on January 16 from her leave in 1st Grade English – Polina Trask has done an excellent job for the three weeks of Sarah's absence; Learning Specialist Marie-Pier will return from her maternity leave on January 23rd and we look forward to her return; State of the School is from 8:30 – 9:30 am on Friday January 26 in the Auditorium.

February: Jog-a-thon on Friday, February 2nd; Talent Show Feb 9; in collaboration with FACC San Diego on February 13 at 5-7 pm a French tax lawyer will present a seminar for parents; US Book Fair

March: CAIS accreditation team will visit SDFAS in March from the 19th – 22nd ; international week; Pi day; collaboration with AF San Diego on March 30 a well-known French pianist with ludic personal interpretations of the greats Pierre Yves Plat will perform in SDFAS auditorium for adults in the evening and for students during the day; there will be different teacher workshops hosted here at SDFAS and in Los Angeles; MS Spirit Week; Gala ...

April: Science Fair, Moems Math competition, Earth Day

May: Teacher Appreciation Week and Luncheon

B- From the school divisions on recent or upcoming programs or projects by teachers representatives/directors of each cycle

PRESCHOOL:

Working on the galette. PK0 are cooking. Painting with objects that roll. PK1 galette also. Obstacle course history of the galette. Will study farm and make bread and butter. Pk2 galette. K working on winter and life on the ice pack, will make artificial snow, see how animals in the arctic protect themselves from the cold. Festinema field trip to movies. Preparing everyone for the Jogathon.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

First grade have a choir with K and will do it for International Week with Claire. Preparing their Forum - study of a book. 1st grade Preparing for the Rally Maths. Field trip on March 9 to a classical concert Bach to Rock. Festinema to see Four Seasons of Leon. Science – guppies and stick bugs in class. 2nd grade visual arts project. Book about a wolf who visits a museum and studies famous paintings. San Diego museum of Art – Latin American Art in January. Forum on Jan 18 – poetry and interpretation of poems and emotions. In Art we have pottery with Jacob and another field trip to Festinema to see the Roi et l'Oiseau. Getting ready for the Rally Maths. In English, book reports will start. We will study matter air and water in Science and see Pierre and the Wolf presentation. In 3rd grade, reading to the little ones develops responsibility and friendship. Students will create an entire bilingual presentation and will present projects in front of parents. In 4th grade, getting ready for the Missions. Field trip in first or second week of February. Need a place to store and display 36 mission models. Bilingual citizenship project writing and reading. Discussing friendship. Bilingual debate at the end. A room parent is missing in 4th grade and we need another one. 4th and 5th grade are doing Imovie projects that they will present at the film festival in May. 5th grade will do a boat trip that is done annually.

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Trimester 1 was an active, vibrant trimester, which went quickly and smoothly. Good MS climate, excellent teamwork and coordination between teachers and subject areas, and good learning curve.

Recent highlights:

- Dec 15: 6th graders attended a Nutcracker Performance Aline Bunod /Barbara Regan
- Dec 15: 7th graders went to Torrey Pines (science field trip – focus on erosion) Echo Jacoway / Anne Laure Denis

- Dec 7 and 8: Elsa Devernois, a French writer visited classrooms, and in 6th graders, explain her job of album writer
- Dec 5 and Dec 12: climax of the 5th/6th grade collaborative Math project on the beach (PB and La Jolla Shores) Nicolas Giot / Julien Moncelet
- Dec 1 and Dec 9: Bilingual project Mock trials Of Mice and Men – involved 8th graders and also 7th graders as jury – comparison of two legal systems Shelby Aseltine / Marion Addo
- Dec 4: La Jolla Christmas Parade - visibility and presence of the school in the community – teamwork, admin staff
- Dec 8 : MS Dance #1 with 9th graders (reunion)
- Dec 14: chapeau ticket store
- 2nd season of electives is under way> 2 new electives: Makerspace Echo Jacoway / Advanced Robotics Francois Tregouet / continuation of the Eustory project in history/geography

Current highlights:

- JMUN: position papers have been submitted. SDFAS has been assigned to France and Ukraine
Visitors from the San Diego Diplomacy Council will come to the next JMUN class on Dec 12 (outreach program, building international community spirit and understanding)
- MATH CLUB: contests / PI Day prep / MOEMS contacts have been made with other schools – Grauer is in (date 04/13)
- THEATER: French La Troupe + Spanish – performances scheduled + Multilingual event – 5 language schools in (date 03/10)
- STUDENT NEWSLETTER: FIRST edition was sent out (google doc)
- EUSTORY PROJECT: NEED FOR CROWD on JANUARY 27 FILM SHOOTING - shooting other scenes on January 18 (San Diego Museum)
- ART PROGRAM: THEATER with Meara Scanlon – articulation of curriculum with advisory themes for each grades (performance on 03/13 8:30 am)
- ADVISORY PROGRAM: IT works very well- better articulation, structure, teamwork, feedback – developing soft skills - structured process of self evaluation each trimester / prep of school/class councils
- COMMUNICATION: MS Academic Overview Newsletter + Weekly Communication
- Professional Development for teachers: continuing – visit from pedagogical attaché on Jan 26 (French , literature, cycle 3 and 4) / Bridging Hearts & Minds Youth Mindfulness Development conference in San Diego early February / webinars
- More events to come: please note

Safer Internet Day 02/15

Black History Month celebration – forum 02/22

Airbus presentation in 7th grade by a parent 01/18

PT Meetings 02/22 and 23

SEAL workshop all MS 02/22 – no MS clubs that day

T2 report cards: published on MSP March 9 after class councils (the same week)

C - From Head Room Parent (Heloise Brodin) with any information to share concerning recent or upcoming events

Positive feedback from room parents this year about organization in general and about Xmas gifting. Second room parents meeting on Thursday to review what's coming up and the rest of the year. New system with Head Room Parent was a bit hectic at the beginning but now all seems to be going smoothly. Room parents keep in touch well.

D- From P.A. President (Lydia Inostroza, represented by Mark Rosenblum) with any information to share concerning recent and upcoming events

- *Marché de Noël 2017 was a big success*
- *Upcoming events include Talent Show February 9, US Book Fair February 16-22, Teacher Appreciation Lunch May 1, Kermesse June 15*
- *PA may hold another PA Social at some point in the Spring*
- *PA will hold a second Plenary Meeting in January or February 2018, TBD*
- *PA will hold PA Board elections in May for Vice-President and Secretary, with interested candidates needing to make themselves known to the current Secretary Amy Allemann (aalleman@aol.com) by March 31, 2018*
- *PA has been working hard on revising its ByLaws; ByLaws will be made public and posted on the website once completed and approved by the Board of Trustees*

III-CONCERNS, FEEDBACK, PROPOSALS, REQUESTS

A. From Students: Report by 5th grade students' representatives and 8th grade students' representatives for Middle School.

ELEMENTARY:

Positive feedback:

- There is no longer any fighting or people hurting each other on purpose during recess and students feel more safe

Requests:

- Baseball / Pokémon cards would be desired – can we try for one day? **The administration understands the nature of the request and the student desire here; however, according to the Parent-Student handbook, toys and other games are not brought to school from home as these often create disputes and bad feelings among students, and create more problems and drama than joy. This issue was discussed in Conseil d'Etablissement last year and a vote was held with parents to continue with the current policy the way it is. Sorry!**

- Can we have a vending machine at school to use during recess? We will research but probably not for a number of reasons. We had one several years ago and it created more problems than happiness (money lending issues between students, machine breakage, overly-sugar-filled low quality food products in the machine, etc).

- Soft balls during recess? Les soft balls ont été distribués en début d'année. Les élèves en ont perdu beaucoup. Une re-distribution aura lieu prochainement...

- hand sanitizer in the bathroom To be communicated to facility manager...

- book donations to classrooms/library Good idea. Can be organized with teachers...

Regarding Girard Gourmet:

- Could we have recyclable silverware? Done! Be sure to thank Girard Gourmet.

- We would like more burritos from Girard Gourmet and shorter lines. Mr. Carlier will communicate this to Ms. Asensio who will coordinate with Girard Gourmet.

- Could we have compost for food waste at lunch? This idea will be discussed with the facilities manager and admin will get back to you on it. This has been tried in the past and is a good project but requires true commitment over time on the part of all students and adults in order for it to work.

- Shorter lines/better organization with Girard Gourmet

=> Girard Gourmet has been informed and some modifications have already been made

- Options for Girard Gourmet

=> To be communicated to Girard Gourmet?

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Positive feedback:

- The login for the computers is easier and there are now fewer bugs

- Thank you for the re-usable metal silverware from Gerard Gourmet

- We are excited about the Field trip to Canada in 8th grade and about how it is partially financed by fundraising that the students are in charge of helping enact (pain chocos on Wednesdays)

Things to improve:

MS would like a water fountain in the middle school area: Administration and Facilities will explore the structural and cost feasibility of this, near C8, with no guarantees. Water fountains don't seem at present, according to administration, to be overly problematic in terms of lines/waiting.

MS would like the elementary students to clean their own tables after lunch and we'd do the same in MS: Normally, after the first service the tables are cleaned for the students. It is the responsibility of everybody, teachers and students, to each clean up his or her own area. It is good education and the right way to proceed. Everyone must remind everyone else and take personal responsibility.

Next to the teacher's lounge there is a light that is always on; having light sensors would be better so humans don't have to turn off the lights: Admin believes that we are capable of self-regulating our behavior so as to be disciplined to turn off these lights without investing in sensors at this time.

For the AC units in A6 and A5 they are just on one side so hard to optimally regulate the temperature between the two rooms: Administration and Facilities will continue to explore ways to solve this problem which is complicated and potentially costly to fix.

B- From Parents:

Cycle I:

Cycle I parent representative absent.

Cycle II:

- A family would like the school to have a carpool forum. - The procedure we use is to contact the division director or Stéphanie who will put the family in touch with other SDFAS families living within the same zip code.
- Would like to see 1st and 3rd graders more challenged in Math, perhaps via a club. Are two or three different levels possible in class? Teachers make determinations as to who needs more or less challenge in Math in class. As far as a Math club as an ASA for grades 1-3 like the school has in grades 4-6, this will be discussed as a possibility for the future with Ms. Asensio the Afterschool Programs manager.
- Son in 1st grade: conflict between afterschool activities and study hall. Why can't it be possible to sign a 1st grader up each day for both study hall and an ASA of interest? An effort has been made to rectify this problem or at least greatly improve. A number of 3:15 pm activities were moved to 3:30 pm to allow for a 30-minute study hall period to co-exist and happen prior to ASA. As far as choice of 3:30 ASA each day, ASA program will continue to reflect on best types of "generalist" offerings to put for 3:30 pm. There is never any Study Hall offered on Friday so the issue doesn't exist on Friday. We will continue to work on the quality of the overall structure and offering of the ASA program moving forward, building upon the improvements already made for this 2nd session.
- Alexandra Borbolla – could she do the class portraits and the class pictures instead of Lifetouch? This will be considered and discussed with Alexandra. There are a few potential problems with moving in that direction because currently LifeTouch YearBook is linked with LifeTouch Photography which makes upload and transfer of the portraits

and class photos easy to do in terms of YB creation. LifeTouch Photos also creates an ID card with the photos for each faculty, staff member and student and this is a big benefit also to having LifeTouch. That said, we will discuss the matter with Alexandra and see what is and isn't possible with respect to coordination for YB and ID card creation.

Cycle III:

- Bathroom cleanliness for the girl's bathroom and lacks toilet paper – Will be communicated to facilities department to correct.

Cycle IV:

- Long wait time for parents picking up when students are at sports away games waiting for students to return, so a text or phone call should happen when the team is leaving the venue so as to let parent know

As of today, Diesa communicates by email at the start of the season all games' dates/times/locations to parents whose children are enrolled in the Sports League. Games' start time 3:30 pm, end time 4:30, bus return time approximately 5:30 pm give or take 15 minutes. Diesa includes her phone number. Diesa can ask Julien for Soccer if he is okay to give his phone number too.

Depending on traffic, the bus return time is indeed unpredictable. Parents are welcome to text Diesa / Julien directly for more detailed information... Diesa / Julien will send one reminder email shortly regarding games etc, and any additional information can be directed to Diesa by email, text message and/or phone calls.

- When will school calendar 2018-19 be released? It was released on January 9 the day following the School Council.
- Calendar difficulties when the calendar of SDFAS does not match up with Federal holidays or with public school vacations. This year only one family had only three days in common for a holiday as a family. Can more of the SDFAS calendar match up with federal holidays and/or public school calendar? Winter holiday break will coincide with public school vacation in the 2018-19 calendar. The issue of federal holidays will be taken up and debated at the next calendar meeting of the school council, and between now and then in discussions between Head of School, parent representatives and division directors.
- Minimum day issue: in MS the minimum day mornings aren't taken seriously and that creates a problem as it impacts the quality of the academics and often there are attendance issues. Academic administration will discuss and consider. There are good reasons why the mini days are where they are and many families like them where they are the way it is. It is true that in MS vs. Elementary and Preschool opinions may vary on this matter.