

**Edison Elementary School
Collaborative School Committee
September 9, 2009**

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

Members Present (in alphabetical order): Dr. Ann Christy, Principal; Robert Hudnall, Teacher; Suzanne Leff, Chair and Parent; Larry Nelson, Assistant Principal; Carol Reed, Teacher; Joanne Stroud, Teacher; Lesley Turner, Teacher.

Guests Present (in alphabetical order): Michel Brossmer, PTA President; Rachel Davis, Save Art for Edison (SAFE); LeighAnn McSherry, Teacher.

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the minutes as read from the August 2009 Regular Meeting, including changes submitted via e-mail.
- II. **Art Teacher**
 - A. **Review of Final Options:** Dr. Christy presented the three options under consideration for the use of the grant funds raised by Save Art for Edison (SAFE): 1) a .5 FTE Art Teacher for the remainder of the school year, 2) an FTE Art Teacher to be hired in October after the beginning of FY2010, or 3) a Long-Term Substitute Teacher, which has been ruled out due to cost. Dr. Christy stated that Option #2 has the support of teachers since it will allow for the scheduling of grade-level planning time. Ms. Davis informed the Committee that Artists in Residence could be flexible and work within the scheduling constraints; however, she recognized the drawback of this would be that teachers would have to attend Art with their classes to comply with the DPS' licensed staff requirement.
 - B. **Recommendation(s) to Art Committee:** Following a discussion concerning scheduling challenges and the possible use of direct placements to fill the position, the Committee concluded those who generously donated time and money to the SAFE effort deserved the benefits afforded by the interview process and that direct placement requirements could result in costs which greatly exceeded the available resources (\$37,000 in funding raising monies). Therefore, CSC recommended the process should be set into motion that would allow for the hiring of a .5 FTE Art Teacher in October 2009. Mr. Nelson stressed that this would also have the least impact on schedule for the new literacy initiative called Response to Instruction (RtI). At the request of Ms. Leff, Dr. Christy stated that she would forward requirements for the letter that will transfer the funds raised to DPS for administration as a grant. After the funding source is established, the hiring process can then be set into place.
- III. **Personnel Committee**
 - A. **Enrollment:** Dr. Christy reported that enrollment is 13 students short of last year's numbers; this could result in the elimination of one teaching position through the RIBS (Reduction in Building Staff) process. Kindergarten enrollment accounted for this

difference; all other grades met or exceeded last year's numbers. As a result of these numbers, Dr. Christy projected DPS funding based on enrollment would be reduced by \$26,000 (13 students X \$2,000 allocation per student). If the official reduction in funding does not exceed \$31,000, the deficit could be covered within Edison's budget and there would be no need to go through the RIBS process. However, Dr. Christy informed the Committee that she will move to re-activate/train the Personnel Committee by September 11, 2009 in the event that official funding reductions exceed \$31,000 and DPS requires Edison to eliminate one teaching position.

Appointment of Parents to Serve on Committee: Dr. Christy informed the Committee that no nominations had been received as a result of the announcement sent out in Thursday Folders on September 3, 2009. Dr. Christy reminded the Committee that the Personnel Committee must have two parent and two teacher members, based on the provisions of the DCTA Contract.

Ms. Leff recommended that Ann Button and Leigh Ann Wilson, parents from Ms. Okimoto's 4th Grade HGT classroom, be considered. Dr. Christy thanked Ms. Leff for these nominations, but pointed out that General Education classroom parents would also need to be considered. Ms. Leff then suggested that an e-mail be sent to those who had been previously involved asking for updated contact information; a list of two appointees and alternates could be developed from these responses. Dr. Christy indicated that she would expeditiously develop a list using this approach.

IV. Dollar General Grant for Tutoring

A. Recommendations for Implementation: Ms. Leff reported that Edison had been awarded a \$2,500 Literacy Tutoring Grant from Dollar General to cover the expenses associated with library books to supplement tutoring. Ms. Brossmer added that Edison must submit an agreement to Dollar General within 30 days of receiving the grant in order to formally accept the funding. Mr. Nelson indicated that a book series called "Literacy One" for 1st Grade, which uses the Fontas and Pinnell leveling system, was being considered as a purchase option.

B. Additional Funds: The Committee discussed options for additional funds to be used to pay tutors to deliver the services with these books. Dr. Christy summarized the costs of hiring tutors (\$2,500 would pay for 6 tutors over 8 weeks) and added that funds designated in the budget for Library Books could not be used to hire tutors. Ms. McSherry suggested that FRED might be able to pay for tutors. Ms. Leff informed the Committee that FRED was being revived as a part of PTA and that it would be appropriate for CSC to ask for funding for tutors from the PTA. Dr. Christy indicated that she would follow up on the PTA funding request and the previously referenced agreement.

V. School Improvement Plan (SIP)

A. Goals

1. Academic: Dr. Christy indicated that she would continue her work with Mr. Nelson to revise the data contained in this section.

2. **Parent Engagement:** Dr. Christy stated that Lauren Berdofe-Stewart had revised the first objective to make it measurable. Ms. Leff asked Dr. Christy to provide a copy of the most recent version of the goals and objectives contained in this section and distribute it to the Committee. Dr. Christy informed the Committee that Ms. Berdofe-Stewart will be sending the revised objective to the members of the Committee for their review.

3. **School Climate and Culture:** The Committee initially discussed the perception of Edison being “two schools.” Mr. Nelson stressed the need to dispel the myth that the HGT program is isolated from the General Education program; the goal should be increased collaboration between the HGT and General Education classrooms. Dr. Christy mentioned that in recent conversations with Rebecca McKinney, the head of DPS’ GT Program, she was told that DPS is looking at the current GT model and considering revamping it. Ms. Leff stated that the Committee’s continued interest in the HGT/General Education “divide” signifies a need for change and perhaps the inclusion of an SIP goal/objective. Dr. Christy reminded the Committee that teacher training would need to take place before any changes could be made to the current model.

Ms. Leff stated that Tina Martinez will send out the current draft of this section for review by the Committee. Any revisions would need to be addressed during the October CSC meeting.

4. **Library and Technology:** Mr. Hudnall indicated that he would lead the effort to complete this section.

B. Due Date and Action Steps for Completion: Dr. Christy informed the Committee that the due date for the SIP is October 15, 2009. Therefore, the regularly scheduled CSC meeting for October 14, 2009 was **moved to October 7, 2009** to allow for the inclusion of changes and approval of the final document before the final submission.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:35 p.m.