

**Edison Elementary School  
Collaborative School Committee  
February 11, 2009**

Call to Order: 4:50 p.m.

Members Present: Ann Christy, Principal; Larry Nelson, Assistant Principal; Robert Hudnall, Teacher; Joanne Stroud, Teacher; Lesley Turner, Teacher; Bret Hann, Parent; Suzanne Leff, Parent.

Guest Present: Elizabeth Mathews, Teacher

**I. Parent Volunteers**

At the February PTA meeting, parents volunteered to assist with putting together math games to support the Everyday Math curriculum. Other parents volunteered to help label books with Accelerated Reader reading levels. Suzanne asked who will serve as the contact person or people for these volunteers. Mr. Nelson said that he would work with the math games volunteers. Mr. Hudnall asked that parents interested in helping with book leveling contact him. Both Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hudnall acknowledged that they will need additional volunteers. Mr. Nelson indicated that a donation of laminator supplies would assist with the preparation of math games. Math game preparation will likely require using the copy machine and laminator at the school. Parents interested in volunteering may contact Mr. Nelson or Mr. Hudnall directly.

**II. Update on School Improvement Plan Implementation**

Ms. Christy reported that the professional development activities for the school year match the School Improvement Goals. At the late start day tomorrow, Ms. Christy will present non-negotiable guidelines for guided reading groups. A standardized approach to guided reading groups aligns with the CSC's goal for consistency across classrooms and grade levels.

**III. Positive Behavior Support Training**

Lesley Turner presented information about a Positive Behavior Support (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/pbs/historyColoradoPBS.htm>) training that she, David Pines and Cindy Stroschein-Lucas attended earlier in the week. Ms. Turner put her presentation in the context of the budget cuts and the anticipated larger class sizes for next year. She asked: What can we do to give teachers more tools to deal with larger class sizes? and recommended that we keep this idea in mind as we address the budget.

Ms. Christy offered platooning as one option. Mr. Nelson recognized platooning as a good idea as long as it is used correctly. Ms. Turnery recommended working with kids and behaviors to address and create classroom climate that supports instruction. PBS and Response to Intervention support these objectives. Ms. Mathews commented that, with platooning, teachers should have the opportunity to choose it rather than have the approach mandated. The teachers recognized the benefits of platooning with larger class sizes because it can reduce preparation work by sharing duties with another teacher.

#### **IV. Budget**

Ms. Christy reported that the school cannot submit a budget that relies on four intern positions. She emphasized that the budget cannot accommodate all existing classrooms with the number of teachers it permits. We must anticipate larger class sizes and no library technician. If no vacancies exist at the end of the year, Edison cannot hire any UCD interns. None of the proposed scenarios allows for three Specials.

The Committee discussed paraprofessional time required by the DCTA contract. The second grade classes will likely see the highest class size and will get at least two hours of paraprofessional time under the proposed scenario that eliminates a second grade class.

The proposed class configuration includes one combined classroom of fourth and fifth grades. The Committee discussed the advantages of a combined classroom for these grades and compared this option to combined classrooms at other grade levels. The Committee determined that a 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> combination seemed like the best situation for students and teachers.

The proposed budget contemplates a teacher cut at second grade and may require in-school interviews for fourth and fifth grade teachers. Ms. Christy explained the staffing process, including the time frame and options. The Committee discussed the need for parent members on the hiring committee and made recommendations for Ms. Christy to contact.

The budget also eliminates a Specials position. The Committee members discussed the various Specials currently offered at Edison and possible alternatives to the current selections. The Committee talked about the possibility of integrating music and theater. Teachers suggested that art seemed like the Special that they could most easily cover in their classroom curriculum. A monthly enrichment time could also allow for art activities that integrate students across grade levels. The Committee ultimately agreed, without objection from anyone present, to keep gym and music, which results in an elimination of art.

The Committee favored a budget that requires a 45 minute lunch for kindergarteners and 40 minutes of recess time following lunch. The kindergarteners will not participate in Specials, but Ms. Turner's classroom can participate based on the rotation schedule that Ms. Christy outlined. The Committee agreed on this approach. Another alternative presented would have required the kindergarten students to start the school day later or end earlier than the rest of the school. The Committee turned down this option because of the inconvenience that it would present for parents.

Finally, Ms. Christy realized that some funding was set aside in a separate account that could help to fund a library technician. She recommended moving some money from administrative line items to cover the full cost of a library technician.

The Committee approved the proposed budget without objection.

Following the approval of the budget, the Committee discussed how to report the information to teachers and parents. Ms. Christy said that she would present it to teachers at the late start day tomorrow. Suzanne Leff offered to draft a statement to parents, for the CSC's review, about the budget changes and the opportunities afforded by the changes.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:05 p.m.