

Notes from Site Council meeting on February 11, 2008

On Monday, February 11th, Richmond welcomed honored guests from Samaura School in Kobe, Japan, in a full staff meeting. This meeting occupied the majority of the time that the Site Council would typically have met, but a brief Site Council meeting was held at the conclusion of the meeting with our visitors from Samaura.

In attendance:

Kathryn Anderson
Minori Fukushima
Jaina Johnson
Mona Ozaki
Tim Smith

The holiday survey generated by a Richmond parent was not approved by PPS counsel, for several reasons. The general feeling of those Site Council members in attendance was that Richmond staff and Site Council members could continue to informally seek parent input regarding ways in which to celebrate holidays in a thoughtful, coherent manner.

Kathryn Anderson was able to update the Site Council in the following areas:

The scratch kitchen appears to have support from the district and will given permission to create one entrée item in the spring, with the opportunity for further development.

The numbers of student families that have listed Richmond as their number one transfer option is over 40% of available slots at last count, a pace ahead of that in previous years.

Immersion school principals have recommended the adoption of IB curriculum through all immersion programs because of the close curricular fit of IB programs to what is already being offered in immersion programs.

Two big grants applications are being written that will be complete later this spring. One is the Mt. Hood Cable Access grant, which would provide a mobile lab for Richmond. The second is a Foundation New Vision grant which would provide up to \$52,000 for the revision of Japanese curriculum. Grant writer and potential future Richmond parent Bernadette Doolan is making instrumental contributions to these efforts.

Initial staffing estimates will be released by the district at the end of February. The budget will be anchored in the 2007 budget, which shows a \$10 million gap in funding. This does not bode well for district support for teacher staffing.

Staffing recommendations to the superintendent's include:

- a minimum staffing level of .5 counselor/school
- a minimum of 2 secretaries for a school of Richmond's size
- a continuation of support for priority funds grants that funded the .5 Cultural Arts Liaison position at Richmond, held by Ritsuko Fujiwara