

Richmond Site Council Meeting Summary

October 8, 2007

Present: Tim Smith, Karen Meier, Jaina Kapranos Johnson, Lynne Cunnings, Minoru Fukushima and Dawn Uchiyama

Absent: Kathryn Anderson

School Security

Lynne reported a breach of security with the Montessori Program last week. Parents in the program expressed some dismay with the security rules. Lynne referred them to Richmond's Security Committee.

Council Membership

Tim noted the need to identify a new chair, secretary and recruit another parent member. He said he would talk to Kathryn about getting a notice in the Richmond Shinbun.

Potential Agenda Items

Tim listed a number of potential agenda items, several of which were carry-overs from last year.

- Fifth grade trip (is this resolved or is further discussion needed?)
- School volunteers
- Fundraising
- FTE Staff Plan
- Growth Plan

The group discussed several aspects of growing the Richmond Immersion Program and some of the new challenges faced as we transition from a neighborhood school to an immersion program. Questions included: how big can we really get? Do we have to grow? Do we have the same vision as PPS? How do we deal with the special needs of non-English speaking families or non-Japanese speaking families? Are we tracking the changing demographics of our school and how they impact the program needs? i.e. how will our program be affected if we recruit more native speakers?

The group also discussed the need to coordinate with other immersion programs. Tim noted that Richmond parent Melanie Scheuermann met with Michael Bacon (PPS Immersion Program Coordinator) last March and he offered to follow up with her and what she learned.

Karen suggested the Site council be clear about what Richmond's needs are before contacting other programs. The group brainstormed the following items:

- Number of students in classroom
- Recruiting students and staff
- ELL support
- Interns
- Philosophy of language learning
- Curriculum overhaul (how have other schools accomplished this?)
- Time constraints on teachers (half day English/half day Japanese)
- Stable funding

Dawn offered to contact Michael Bacon to get some basic district statistics. The group requested the following information be obtained:

- List of schools
- Language spoken
- Neighborhood program or not
- % of native speakers
- Number of teachers
- Number of students
- What the school language model is
- Test scores
- Interns?
- Parent organizations?

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

There is no meeting in November and the next meeting is December 10, 2007.

*Meeting summary prepared by Dawn Uchiyama
Approved December 10, 2007*