

# SPC Meeting Minutes 3/5/14

## TESTING/FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS:

- District Predictive tests - NOT reliable, NOT useful. There is a petition to scrap them.
- PARCC Test - State decision to choose Curley as a pilot school to implement them; it is computer testing, Chrome books given but DO NOT actually support the test format. (!) The results are not shown to us and are not counted in any way. All influx...
- DIBELS, PALS, BAS - all given on one-to-one basis in lower grades (K1-2); are very reliable & useful in assessing children's skills levels.
- TERRA NOVA - given early October, takes 4 months to get results, & is the sole test for determining AWC acceptance.
- ANET - costs school to administer; predictives are free.

\* Too many test given, some are good/some bad. Need to sort out which ones to keep or scrap.

## KATIE GRASSA NOTES:

There are 11 teacher positions to fill in 6 weeks for next year! She needs parent volunteers to sit in on the Hiring Committee; hoping to get diverse representatives.

### 3 Priorities for Candidates:

- 1) ESL Certification - encourage current teachers reapplying to get this training
- 2) African-American applicants - 20% compliance needed for each school
- 3) Spanish-speaking

## AWC ISSUES:

There is a huge social/racial/economic divide starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade when AWC classes begin!

### Recommendations:

- Inclusion - class homerooms mixed levels
- Differentiated Instruction - teachers to personalize resources toward individual kids' levels; many scheduling problems
- Curley received the OK from "Court Street person" (name?) to move forward with changing the culture at the school, very excited by this idea & movement of parents!
- RESOURCES are a HUGE BLOCK in this process - not enough!
- Prejudice & Racial Tensions exist; socio-economic divisions getting larger.
- AWC introduces Tracking into "social classes", which then become self-fulfilling.
- Behavior Expectations - there is a lack on ALL levels.

The Superintendent of BPS is VERY excited/on-board about what Curley is initiating & is anxious for this change to happen!! Views Curley as a beacon for the rest of BPS.

(continued)

## **BUDGET MOBILIZATION:**

- Curley one of 18 schools speaking out to the Board - being noticed for our activism in making changes for all of BPS & for the huge participation/commitment of teachers/parents.
- Speakers giving testimony to Budget Committee
- Target for Funding:
  - state & mayor
  - school committee & council cannot raise \$ alone
  - funds based on enrollment: a huge disconnect between reality & state records.

Asking for Chapter 17 Budget increase - "Circuit Breaker" (didn't quite understand this one... sorry!)

## **FUND-RAISING:**

Silent Auction: 50 items pledged!

- Events page on Facebook - go to it & invite friends to attend
- Discussion about possible sharing of emails with other schools for events like this.

## **PLAYING FIELD:**

We met the funds deadline!!

- Sent to BPS for commencement of bidding.

## **PLANT SALE:**

- Clay pots to Anna Yuman for kids to paint & sell.

## **END-OF-YEAR BACKPACK LETTER TO PARENTS:**

- Contributions request to parents; may hold off until Fall due to "donation fatigue"

## **UNIFORM EXCHANGE:**

- Started; need donations of gently-used school clothes.

## **MIDWAY NITE!**

- Time to book the night; last year's event filled to capacity!

## **eBAY ITEMS:**

- Sell donations for CASP resources; start for next year's fund-raising; would like to see a cushion in budget (costs \$100-120,000 annually).

## **SPC LEADERSHIP TRANSITION:**

- Elections possibly held in June; can review budget/expectations/income to new leaders to jump-start next year's process.

THANK YOU FOR READING!