

Redwood School Site Council Minutes

January 17, 2023

Redwood Library, 3:30 pm

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.

Members present: Paola Vargas, Dennis Carter, Heather Dingbaum, Dylan McKenna, Zachary Snow, Kaitlyn Wilkens, Roya Klaidman, Christine Evangelista, Chakameh Azimpour, Lucy Lombardi, Carrie Halvorsen, Megan Goebel, Rafael Rico, Melissa Crawford, Alison Friedman; 4:05 arrival: Nicole Judd, William Zasadil

Absent: Lori Hunnicutt, Rachael Brusseau, Eulalia Soriano, Sophia Reichert, Stacey Wasson

I. Approval of the Minutes

- Roya Klaidman made a motion to approve the November 29, 2022 minutes. Meghan Goebel seconded the motion. Motion carried – November minutes approved.

II. Public Comments

- No public comments.

III. Student Report – Provided by Maddie Harris.

- School cases were decorated for Winter Holidays
- The Snack Cart continues to be available Mondays and Fridays
- 6th grade ASB students will begin to work Ball Cart starting Semester 2
- Game/Ball Check out continues to be available Monday through Friday in the quad
- The Christmas Door Decorating Contest had high participation and a lot of festive doors. Thank you to Mr. McKenna, Mrs. Vargas, and Mr. Carter for judging!
- COTY on 12/16 had a lot of Vikings wearing Ugly Sweaters and PJs

- LTA – Lip Sync was held over 2 days on 12/15 - 12/16 and many Redwood students participated and cheered on their fellow Vikings

- Spark for Love Toy Drive began on 11/14 and ended on 12/14. Thank you to PTSA for picking up all of the toys that were collected!

- December and January Birthdays cards were distributed
- Classroom rep meeting was held on 1/6 to tell classroom representatives about school events in January

- Publicity for January COTY and LTA has begun

Upcoming:

- The winners of Semester 1 COTY will have a pizza party at the beginning of Semester 2

- COTY – Decades Day on 1/27

- LTA – Blast from the Past Song Guess on 1/27

- Kindness Grams will be sold 2/6 - 2/16 and distributed on 2/22

- Pink Shirt Day will be celebrated on Wednesday 2/22 with help from PTSA

- Black History Month will be celebrated in February

IV. Boys and Girls Club Report – Provided by Rafael Rico.

- New happenings at the club include messy science, manga mondays, and other fun activities. The Club is working on a Parents' Night Out on Valentine's day, which would be free for members and ten dollars for non-members; it would run 5:30-8:00 PM with activities for participants.

V. New Business

- Door magnets are now installed on classroom doors.
- There was a Ventura County sheriff safety presentation last week. Teachers learned safety techniques as well as measures one could take in an emergency.
 - Follow-up discussion: C. Halvorsen asked if Red Cross updates will be happening. P. Vargas noted that trainings are offered each month and staff is encouraged to sign up. C. Azimpour asked if there is a number or date goal in mind for this; P.

Vargas said the closest to 100% the better and that getting people trained is a priority.

VI. Committee Reports

■ DAC (District Advisory Council) – Provided by Carrie Halvorsen.

- There will be an increase childcare rate by 15% with the possibility of sibling discounts and/or scholarships. New classrooms will be opening up to alleviate waitlists.
- Follow-up discussion: M. Crawford asks whether the school district is getting ELOP funding to offset the cost of the childcare cost increase. C. Halvorsen says the district is currently looking into sourcing more funding for this. C. Azimpour wonders if that is the path to equalize education for all in California.
- Some campuses are being opened for the holidays and weekends, which creates extra work for staff but which also creates good use of the campus.
- There were conversations about different DEI programs in the district. For example, the Newcomer program at NPHS is in its second year; 59 students have opted in with more students expected to join. Other districts do not offer this program, so students from other districts are coming in for this opportunity at NPHS.
- The dual immersion program at Conejo Elementary is exceeding expectations; 50% of enrolled students are already Spanish speakers. Students of this program are slotted to continue to Colina Middle School.
- The committee is working hard to review core literature to meet all the needs out there for DEI.
- Dr. Dwight Rogers is the new Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He received an anti-bias grant for \$200,000, which is the highest you could get, as noted by M. Goebel, and he is excited to focus on helping the kids with these funds. He looks forward to using the voices of the advisory council, staff and students to help him improve the campuses.
- There are great things happening at Redwood, and our campus is doing amazing things!

- Follow-up discussion: Z. Snow asks about the possibility of a middle-level newcomer program coming to Redwood. P. Vargas said they are updating the English learning roadmap and they are interested in adding and contributing to that program. C. Halvorsen asks how that would be channeled. P. Vargas mentions that a partnership between Sequoia to NP might work because of the centralized locations.
- We have seven schools that are recognized as California Distinguished Schools! Congrats!

■ **GATE DAC (Gifted and Talented Education District Advisory Council) – Provided by Melissa Crawford.**

- Last meeting was December 2, 2022; M. Crawford was not able to attend so she is reading summary notes.
- There was a DEI presentation by Dr. Rogers where he walked the group through the DEI plan.
- There was a focused discussion on social emotional learning loss because of Covid.
- There was a focused discussion on the core literature adoption process. The committee is looking into an option to secure higher lexile level reading for GATE kids.
- Every month there is a meeting with GATE facilitators and the GATE TOSA.
- Ms. Salvoski hosted a GATE event on minecraft; 25 students attended. There was another GATE event last week on creative writing for students to opt into.
- C. Evangelista asked about parent email sign ups. M. Crawford noted that Redwood has high parent email newsletter participation with over 50 email addresses; newsletters are sent out monthly.

■ **DELAC (District English Learning Advisory Council) – Provided by Dennis Carter.**

- D. Carter made notes about testing schedules, grades, the end of the semester, and upcoming state tests.

■ **SEDAC (Special Education District Advisory Council) – Provided by Audra MacCorkle.**

- SEDAC Meeting Presentations.

- a) Please review [this slideshow](#) for the full recap of the meeting.
 - b) Link to upcoming SELPA Parent Trainings [here](#)
 - c) Updates from Directors of Special Education: [Updates in special education - December.pdf](#)
- CTE Pathways Presentation
 - a) Thank you to Brian Mercer (Director of High School Education), Sonia Wilson (Director of Middle School Education), Nick Guerin from NPHS, and Ashley Cooper from TOHS for presenting today. CTE courses are open to ALL students at the middle and high school levels. Please discuss with your student's case manager for more information and about enrolling in a course.
 - b) To learn more about CTE Pathways, please visit the website, [CVUSD | CTE Careers Pathways](#)
 - c) Link to Presentation given at the SEDAC meeting [here](#)
- Congratulations to the new Director of Special Education, Elementary: Dr. Erin Roderick. Welcome to CVUSD! We look forward to working with Dr. Roderick.
 - a) Thank you to Bethany Stern for stepping in as Interim Director! We will miss having you at our meetings and we appreciate your help during this time.
- Tarjan Center Presentation
 - a) Thank you to CCC Becky Mertel for organizing the event!!! The informational meeting was held on December 7th and was geared towards students with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians. The presentation will be available to share with families soon so stay tuned! "The mission of the UCLA Tarjan Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is to advance the self-determination, inclusion, and quality of life among the diversity of people with disabilities and their families. We accomplish our mission through collaborative leadership in training, community education, research, service, and information sharing. We serve as a bridge between

the resources of the university and local, state, and international organizations, agencies, policy makers, people with disabilities and their families.”

b) Follow the Tarjan Center on Twitter:

@UCLA_Tarjan and visit their website to learn more, [UCLA Tarjan Center](#).

- SEDAC Committees

- a) Current SEDAC Committees and Committee Chairs:

- (1) Disability Celebrations, Jenny Crosby
 - (2) Curriculum and Inclusion, Lee Ann Holland
 - (3) Safety, Denise Benic and Jenny Crosby
 - (4) Transitions (Big T/Little T)--Chair Still Needed
 - (5) Mental Health/SEL/Wellness Centers--Chair Still Needed
 - (6) New Member/Communications --Chair Still Needed

- b) If you would like more information or would like to join a committee or you would like to volunteer to be the chair, please email SEDAC Chair, Erin Bell at erinbell63002@yahoo.com.

- The next SEDAC General Meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, 2023, from 9:15 AM to 11:30 AM at University (2801 Atlas Ave).

- **AADAC (African American District Advisory Council) – Provided by Lori Hunnicutt.**

- Main recent activity has focused on planning for Black History Month. We are targeting an event mainly for a high school student audience. It is currently planned to take place at BJ's on February 4. We are inviting college students to come and talk to high schoolers about the importance and value of joining a Black Student Union. We will also have a presentation related to Black History Month. Details on that part are still pending. Other events are still in the planning stages. Hopefully we will be able to develop something that will more naturally include middle school and elementary students. The Executive Committee of the AADAC will meet early next week to complete the planning for next month.

- One continuing challenge is the feeling among many parents of black children in the Conejo School District that some (not all) teachers do not speak with enough cultural competence to and about black students. Several parents have shared stories about when their children have felt erased or disrespected in the classroom due to their racial identity. Many parents and community members have recognized the progress being made on this front, but there is still much work to be done.

■ **LGBTQ+ Advisory Council – Provided by Megan Goebel.**

- The committee is interested in updating the reading lists to be more inclusive.
- There was a discussion about Rainbow Clubs and being able to provide safe spaces for students who are questioning or who just want to be there.
- There was a discussion of updating the human growth and development videos and the monthly celebrations.
- Secondary students updated the advisory council on their concerns, specifically regarding concerns about access to all-gender restrooms on the high school campuses, opportunities for LGBTQ+ students to provide feedback, providing an opportunity for students to introduce their pronouns at start of school year, and having teachers show students how to use confidential reporting link on the school websites.
- C. Halvorsen notes that the DAC committee is forming a health curriculum subcommittee to look at new videos, which Heather Skelly is spearheading.

VII. Principal Update – Nicole Judd.

- Grade data is coming in and being reviewed, and the semester data is coming in three days and will be shared at a future meeting. There will be a department discussion, where they will look at grade distribution across all middle schools and departments, as well as other trends. This will happen before the end of January. There will be a follow-up staff meeting in February with semester data, and then the information will be shared with the SSC.

- There is a primary focus of looking at academic grades, even though we know a student is much more than their grades. All students in the sixth grade get a reading test and IXL tests to get grade-level data. Sometimes grades are an indicator of whether a kid is at grade level.
 - Z. Snow brought up how this impacts grading equity. Also, there were 20-25 students who were not reading at grade level in the sixth grade, and finding this out in the beginning of the year is a goal for all grade levels so as to support these specific students early on.
- There was a UDL walk through with focus on co-teaching. The 8th grade English team is rocking it and doing a great job! Co-teaching can be difficult but when it works it's successful.
- We are entering the second half of the year and things are really ramping up!

VIII. Assistant Principal of Instruction Update – Paola Vargas.

- Finals are this Thursday and Friday; the kids are on block schedule, as noted the website and school emails to families. Semester 1 officially ends this Friday, and final grades for Semester 1 (that will be on the transcript) will be viewable next Friday. Parents should note that everything is on Q (nothing is sent out in hard copy form). Not all teachers give finals but some do, and this is to prepare kids for the future when this is the standard in high school.
- Registration for next year is coming up; forms are being updated for next year. There will be an English version and Spanish version for all grades, and all will be electronic via a Google form. These will be sent out near the end of February.
- On 2/21, TOHS will come to campus to talk with 8th graders.
- N. Judd notes that the staff will talk to kids about transcripts and credits so kids can understand how it all works.
- With the change of semester comes a change in classes and schedules for some kids. It also means that state testing is coming up in the spring. The school is toying with the idea of

compacting state testing so that it's more efficient – a shorter time frame of testing with allowance for makeup time gets kids testing closer to promotional day and allows for less testing time and more instructional time. In middle school, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade all test, so finding a schedule that works efficiently is important. The school is looking into having kids test for the first half of the day with a reward in the second half of the day, which would be similar to the celebrations of the Day of Awesomeness.

IX. Dean of Student Support Services – Dennis Carter.

- Activities in spring are coming, which include a possible dance. Other after school activities are being mulled over.
- The school is working getting a motivational speaker for February 28th who speaks about self empowerment Terrance Talley (link to speaker's website [here](#)).

X. Old Business

- No old business.

XI. Miscellaneous

- C. Azimpour noted that many of the core texts are sad and wondered about other, happier options. C. Halvorsen said that even if a teacher selects a sad story, teachers can teach to any aspect of the book. There was a follow-up discussion on this topic as well as supplemental texts and availability of more texts in the library.
- M. Crawford asked for clarity on cell phone policy concerning Outdoor School. N. Judd responded by referencing the paperwork that reminds parents and students that there should not be any cell phones on the trip. There are phones available to use at Outdoor School should the occasion call for it. Teachers mentioned that kids are excited about Outdoor School and that there has been a lot of chatting about it on campus.

- C. Azimpour asks about the calendar; there is a lot of time off in the first semester, and it seems it would be difficult to both teach and learn. N. Judd speaks to this – it's a hot topic and it's been looked at. All teachers vote on the calendar and many vote not to move the calendar up to start earlier in August. We can, however, have the conversation on site to think about finishing tests, etc., before break and having a project after break so as to feel less disjointed.
- M. Goebel asks about the criteria for movement from accelerated math to standard math. N. Judd notes that there is a process for this and a pattern would have to be present for this type of movement. It's more natural to make a move at the year mark rather than at semester.

XII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 pm.