

Oct 30, 2023 | 📅 23-24 CSC Oct Meeting

Attendees: ADAM SMITH Andrea Renteria Athena Alva Bechler, Eileen FERNANDA MANSFIELD
John Casey Spooner Leah Charney Robert F. Rosenthal Elsa D'Angelo MARIA CASTRO ALVAREZ

Attached files: 📎 Notes - 23-24 CSC 1st Meeting

Agenda

[Community Rewards](#)

[CSC Resource Toolkit](#)

Notes

Opening - good things

Enrollment - up about 54 students

- Great to have the kids, but creating challenges with classroom sizes in both homerooms and in specials. Some classrooms are much higher than others (38 in one class)
- Newcomers - students who are new to our country - predominantly from Venezuela, some from Honduras and some from Columbia. They are staying at the Radison down the street, so we are closest at 20 minutes walking time. They have 37 days to find housing and full time employment.
- We are now at 379 total.
- We began the year with splits in ELA-S because of the lower class sizes at the beginning of the year. Now the ELA-S classrooms have all grown to be the larger classes in the school.
- District is making suggestions, but none of them include funding for new teachers. Met with the MLL and enrollment departments is to pull someone from our staff, to become a 1st grade ELA-S teacher. They suggest that we pull an ECE teacher from one of our classrooms that has less students to become a temporary first grade.
 - A big challenge and hesitation is removing a teacher from ECE and then splitting their class into other ECE classes. Not ideal.
 - Ms. Jessica is pulling first grade student newcomers for support. The K/1 split and ½ split is where we are most impacted.
- Not only academics, but also trying to support other needs. We are hosting a coat drive and winter clothing drive.
- We are asking for language testing support that was given to us. We asked for trauma counseling, and also asked for a first grade ELA-S teacher and a para.
- In the last three weeks, we have received more newcomer students than any other school in the district.
- Questions about how we will support students and families who decide to stay. Several students are significantly behind grade level, with some who have not gone to school.
- Ms. Renteria has a meeting tomorrow and we are going to try to resist pulling the ECE teacher and push to get funding to pay for a new ELA-S teacher. Ms. Jessica isn't a certified teacher so our current schedule isn't equitable for them.
- Have to work on a schedule change for specials as well.
- Place Bridge is the elementary newcomer placement for newcomer students who had interrupted school - very far away and they would need to get a city bus voucher to get to the newcomer center program. Might be way easier for everyone if we keep them here.

Request for approval for funding for a music program from Swallow Hill

- ECE / Kinder / Autism room - come every Tuesday for 30 minute classes for each class for the year.
- Push to get more arts in the classroom
- Total cost is \$1,500

- Passed - CSC agrees

Recruitment before School Choice

- Moved the cap from 16 to 20 in ECE classrooms
- We are 13 in each of our traditional ECE classrooms - not filled up
- Primary Montessori could be 30 and we are at 22 (ELA E) and 25 (ELA S)
- They came to us last year and wanted to shut down an ECE class, but we didn't do it. We were hoping that we would be full this year, but we didn't.
- Brainstorming ways to get more students into our ECE program.

Our school ranking is Orange. We are getting an external school review. The last time we did that was in 2017. They have an external organization called school works. They do classroom observations / grade level meetings / parent meetings / student meetings. Goal is to ask questions to develop an understanding of strengths and areas for improvement for our school. That will take place in November. Our choice was to get it done as soon as possible so that we can get the feedback and start working on it. Tuesday, November 14th and Wednesday, November 15th.

Action items

Next Meetings: Nov 27, 2023 Jan 8th, 2024, Feb 5th, 2024, March 4th, 2024, April 8th, 2024, May 6th, 2024

During November we will continue the last Monday of the month. After winter break we will return to the first Monday of every month. We will most likely need to meet bimonthly in February / March to discuss budgets.