

Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School Minutes of Board Meeting, May 28, 2014

Board Members present:

Ed Noh
Espie Chapman
Eun Strawser
Judy Pao
Liam Gimon
Oz Stender
Phil Whitesell
Tim Dietric
Todd Cullison

Community Members present:

Marnie Ackerman
Jim Ackerman
Tara Young
Liz Cody
Kat Young
Kristi Collins
Cathy Bachl

Student Council Representative:

Eddie McDonald

Faculty Members Present:

Margie Cleary
Shelly Ciano
Vicky Villegas
Jane Hinrichs

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2014

- Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Todd Cullison
- Todd Cullison moved for approval of April's minutes and motion was approved with one name modification.

2. Student Council Report - Eddie McDonald reporting

- The cold-water drinking fountains are in. There is a single one upstairs and a double in the LC that are operational. The single in the cafeteria is almost operational. There is one extra fountain dispenser and next year's student council will determine the location. The fountains have a counter of the number of water bottles saved by using the fountain and within two days the counter reported saving over 350 plastic bottles on one fountain alone.
- Student Council Officer elections for 2014-15 were held and the following students were elected: Phoebe Wallace, President (upcoming 6th grader); Lily Bachl, Vice President (upcoming 5th grader); Emma McDonald, Secretary (5th); Anella Kerber, Treasurer (5th); Amelie Ambler, Historian (5th)
- Student Council and the JPO's celebrated the end of the year with a trip to Wet-n-Wild Water Park on Friday, May 23rd.
- Mr. Noh acknowledged the excellent job and leadership that Eddie McDonald has shown this year and thanked him for his service.

3. Community Input

- Tara Young commented that she was confused over an issue that rose from a recent LSO survey to parents. She felt that LSO is her voice because sometimes she does not want to go to leadership face to face.
- Liz Cody stated that parents would welcome a mean of open communication at Lanikai.

- Eddie McDonald suggested we contact local government officials regarding the repaving of the sidewalk from Kawailoa to Lanikai Elementary because it is dangerous and needs to be wider; it is very dangerous on garbage day.
- Shelly Ciano inquired if survey results would be made known. Marnie Ackerman, LSO President confirmed that she had positive results to share.
- Vicky Villegas was concerned that the survey planted ideas in people heads and that the survey could be leading people with it's wording. She also voiced concern over the omission of the Ka'ohao Performing Arts Center.
- Marnie Ackerman stated that the Ka'ohao Performing Arts Center wasn't included in the survey because it was not an LSO initiated project and she was unsure on how the LSO would be involved with it at this time. She acknowledges the importance of the project and noted that the new LSO board would be involved in some capacity with the project. She reiterated that survey questions came from specific parent concerns and other comments that have been conveyed due to her position as LSO President.
- More information was requested on the upcoming Ka'ohao project and a suggestion was made have project information available on the Lanikai school web site. A write up did appear in the 50th Anniversary supplement as an introduction to parents.
- Kristi Collins requested there be better communication between parents and teachers. She voiced concerned that not all grades are getting weekly circulem communication. She feels that this is essential to the three-legged approach to teaching children by having the student, teacher and parents on the same page. She would like Mr. Noh to mandate to all grade levels to communicate a weekly update on curriculum. This would improve communication between parents and teachers. Mr. Noh acknowledged that he is in support of regular communication between teachers and parents but didn't want to mandate how they did that at this time. He reminded the group that the teachers are union members and that we don't operate exactly the way a standard school does.
- Kristi Collins really wants a proactive approach and feels that the planning is already being done but not communicated. She felt it should not take a lot of effort on behalf of the teachers to convey information to the parents. She is very happy at Lanikai and feels that this would be a positive improvement. She teaches as Le Jardin and that is standard practice for them to keep their parents informed on a weekly basis. She is trying to go through the proper chain of command and that is why she is appealing directly to the Lanikai Board because she has explored other avenues. She feels that it needs to be a requirement from Mr. Noh and the Board for the change to happen.
- Tara Young communicated her frustration too and seconded the need for better communication.
- Liz Cody wants to be an advocate for her child and supports better communication as a tool for her child's success.
- Questions were raised about differences of being a charter school vs. regular DOE school. This topic will be addressed and information provided to parents for them to better understand the difference in the 2014 school year. Todd Cullison stated possible avenues are the web site and newsletters. Eddie McDonald also reiterated this. Todd confirmed that we were a conversion to charter school which is mean the property is supported by DOE. This is evident when we see DOE employees working on the property such as the cafeteria back area enclosure.

4. LSO Report – Mrs. Marnie Ackerman reporting

- Marnie presented Board Members with a 50th Anniversary tote bag with a summary of positive comments from the LSO survey. She confirmed the same gift was presented to all Lanikai staff members.
- 45 families completed the survey and the overall response was extremely positive. Results have been tabulated and will be sent to LSO members. Marnie summarized the many LSO accomplishments and thanked the Board for its support, particularly in regards to the State investigation and fiscal sponsorship of the LSO

- Marnie reminded the Board that the LSO is an independent and not subject to review by the Board. She expressed her disappointment in email sent to the entire school in response to the LSO survey. She felt the email caused confusion since it was sent to the entire school and not just LSO members. Marnie recommended regular surveys or a comment box to gather feedback from parents/staff so that ideas and concerns could be identified. For example, the survey kept a parent from starting a petition in front of the school to gather support for her idea.
- The LSO has been able to accomplish so much as a result of the partnership with the Board and she is thankful that they assisted LSO to build a strong foundation for the future. The Board assisted with LSO's non-profit status and Mr. Noh and Phil's assisted significantly with the theft litigation. Sentencing will be held on June 17th at 9:30am. Lanikai families and staff are invited to attend to put a face to the victims of this crime. Next steps would be for LSO to follow-up with an insurance claim.
- A full slate of officers was approved for the 2014-15 school year and they are off to a good start.

5. 50th Anniversary Update – Kat Young, co-chair

- Kat Young and Espie Chapman chaired the event that was an overwhelming success.
- 629 tickets were sold, ticket sales were \$9,300 and net profit was \$2,997.
- Thank you to Ed Noh, Espie Chapman, Judy Pao, Vicky Villegas, Deb Crocket, Lorna Gomes, Mary Crawford, Kristi Petosa-Sigel, Ted Rogers, Sarah Redican and Cynthia Fong.

6. Director's Report - Mr. Ed Noh reporting

- Ed Noh complimented the LSO Board, especially the work of Marnie as the out-going president. She and the LSO Board did a lot "heavy lifting" in the past two years and believes that we are better as a school because of it. He also mentioned the collaborative work regarding "Volunteerism" at the school and has a draft of every school event (LSO or School sponsored) with roles and estimated hours of service. This document will be displayed at the new school year meetings with the hopes that families will know how to get involved at whatever level they feel comfortable, from chairing an event, to clean up crew.
- The Health and Safety Committee met on 5/16/14 to discuss and plan the last safety drill of the school year. It was an alternate site evacuation fire drill. Sadly, due to the various incidents around the world, other safety drills involve lock downs, shelter in place and tsunami evacuations. The committee planned to calendar all the meetings ahead of time, as well as safety drills. All emergency kits will also be inventoried and updated for next year.
- The Health and Safety Committee also agreed that it needs to develop clear guidelines in case of another needle being found on campus. A parent on the committee and Governing Board member will help write the protocol and policy for this important topic and the goal is to have it in place before the new school year.
- Next school year, a reading program called "Wonders" by McGraw-Hill was adopted by the school. Similar to the math adoption of Singapore Math, a committee was formed and many programs were evaluated. Wonders was one of the finalists and initial use training already took place.
- Ed Noh also shared some preliminary UNOFFICIAL testing scores. They are official because all results must be vetted through the DOE Assessment office. The assessment this past year was called the "Bridge HSA" as it was a transition from HCPS III (Hawaii Content Performance Standards, 3rd Edition) to the CCSS (Common Core State Standards). HSA (Hawaii State Assessment) will be changing to SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment). The Bridge HSA encompassed standards from HCPS III and CCSS. This year, students were given two opportunities to take the assessment, while next year, they will only have one opportunity.

- Lanikai students consistently continue to meet and exceed proficiency when compared to DOE and Charter Schools. In Reading, students 3rd - 6th grade averaged 89% proficiency, compared to 69% in the DOE and 66% for Charters. Of the 89% proficient, 64% were in the "Exceeding" category.
- In Mathematics, 84% were proficient, compared to 62% in the DOE and 56% for Charters. Of the 84% proficient, almost half were in the "Exceeding" category.
- Ed Noh commented how proud the staff is of the students and their hard work and it is something that the whole school should be proud of. Mr. Noh thanked the LSO for providing nutritious snacks for the testing, which probably helped with the results.

7. PCNC Report - Mrs. Espie Chapman reporting

- Special thanks to Mid Pac Country Club for the assistance in obtaining a second golf cart that was used for the 50th Anniversary Celebration.
- Historical society used space at Lanikai to meet and will use it again in 3 months
- Aina in the Schools finished a very successful first year at Lanikai Elementary. The Aina in the Schools Program Manager complimented Lanikai and said that we operated more like a school that had been participating in the program for 3 years not school new to the program. A big thanks to the garden docents and everyone that worked to make the program a success. The program will be back next year.
- Newsletter will come out tomorrow, May 29th featuring multiple pages of updates regarding all the exciting items transpiring at the school. It will be delivered electronically to Lanikai families and posted on the web site.

8. President's Report – Mr. Todd Cullison reporting

- Todd Cullison acknowledged the Board received an email regarding school uniforms and the uniform policy at Lanikai. This was submitted to Phil Whitesell, Vice President.
- Tim Dietric currently chairs the Finance Committee. Kim Hansen, who was not in attendance, has been appointed to serve on that committee.
- 4th Grade Big Island Trip took place May 7th-9th and was a tremendous success. Todd Cullison felt it should be a top priority to ensure every 4th grade has the opportunity to take this trip. Acknowledgement was given to the Castle Foundation for the Youth Leadership Grant, which enabled students to earn \$5,000 toward their trip by performing community service. It was a busy trip but impressive to see the student's Hawaiian protocol. Special recognition to Mrs. Judy Pao and Mrs. Maria Gomes for their hard work and commitment to the 4th graders. Having Kumu Peter to assist with Hawaiian protocol was especially meaningful and it reinforced what they learn in Hawaiian studies.
- Some schools are cutting back due to funding and so it is important that we keep this tradition going for all the 4th grade classes.
- The Board is entering their goal-setting phase for the next school year. A meeting is requested for June so that they can address these goals. Ideas such as incorporating a suggestion box, requesting grade level reports to the Board and integrating new technologies (such as Apple TV) into the curriculum were all mentioned.
- Marnie also wanted to reiterate that Shannon Walker has been able to incorporate more food/lunch options due to the improved cafeteria setting. Which may result in a lower lunch cost and more efficiency due to the new kitchen.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm.

9. Closed Session

Wednesday, June 25, 6:30pm, Library