



# Nikiski North Star Elementary

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## Site council Minutes October 13, 2014

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Attendance: Karen Pala, Adrienne Bostic, Travis Moore, Tammy Berdahl, Margaret Gilman Absent: Janell Griener

3:50 Called to Order by President Karen Pala

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes - Adrienne Bostic moved to approve the agenda, Travis Moore seconds.

Still in need of one more parent representative and a Support Staff representative. Margaret noted to work on this.

Public Comment: Sam Moore present

Council Reports:

- Teachers-
  - Karen Pala
    - Kindergarten has started Kelso's choice for teaching conflict resolution
    - 1/2 days at beginning to school for kindergarten- the teachers feel these days are crucial to success. It's very positive and a great way to get to know the kids and make a face to face connection. The students can ease into the year safely. The district is wanting to not allow the 1/2 days to continue. The kindergarten teachers are asking for support from the site council to get permission to do these half days in the future. Mrs. Gilman is very willing to work to keep these days. We will bring to an official vote next meeting.
    - 22-23 students in each kindergarten class and teachers were hoping to brainstorm some solutions. Could we get an aide, a grant, some help or support in each class?
    - 1st grade is studying apples and integrating the concepts into reading, writing, and math.
    - 2nd grade is incorporating the Daily 5 structure into their language arts instruction and it is going very well. They are studying balance and motion in science and the 5 elements of Art.
    - Pre-K got off to a great start.
  - Adrienne Bostic
    - 3rd grade went on their 1st quarter field trip to the food bank and Nikiski playground. They are already preparing for their 2nd quarter field trip to Anchorage. They will be watching a play and going to the Lego exhibit.
    - 4th grade has been writing personal narratives, studying the regions of the United States, and studying the life cycles of salmon. Mrs. Bostic and Ms. Cotreneo's fourth graders went on a field trip to Seward to collect salmon eggs for the school's fish tank. Mrs. Bostic and Mr. Boyle's classes have been leveled for math and students' are finding great success in their differentiated math classes.
    - 5th grade has also leveled their math classes for differentiation and it is going very well. Mrs. Barnes' class went on a field trip to the challenger center. Both classes have done a lot of work with personal narratives, as well as a focus on art.

- Parent Report
  - Travis Moore
    - There are no signs in the parking lot. It was meant to be a one way parking lot and it isn't being used correctly.
- Community Report
  - Tammy Berdahl
    - Rec basketball is up and running. There are approximately 60 kids participating this year. 3-4 grade games will be on Tuesdays. 5-6 grade games will be on Thursdays.
    - Hockey - working to build a program. Flyers went out to students last week. Registration ends November 1st.
    - Halloween
      - October 25th 11:00 Costume 5K
      - October 31st 5-6 Trick or Treat Alley
        - Will NNS be hosting a door?
    - Coat Drive was on Oct 13th. They didn't seem to have as many donations this year.
- Principal Report
  - Current enrollment is 369 including PreK. This matches our projections from last year.
  - SGM Student Growth Model is in its pilot year at KPBSD. Within the SGM, teachers look at pre and post test scores and identify growth. These test scores could be a part of the teacher evaluations as soon as next year.
  - TEP Teacher Enrichment Pathway is one evaluation system KPBSD uses for tenured teachers as an alternative to the traditional evaluation system. Currently have 8 teachers on TEP plans. Two teachers are focusing on Math instruction and growth, 2 teachers are focusing on using Kelso's Choice and conflict resolution to connect to more instructional time for students, and 4 teachers are focusing on writing strategies, in particular for boys.
  - Margaret and Janell took a Science Fair budget proposal to the Nikiski Community Council meeting, last week, hoping to help with funding for a 3-5 science fair. The fourth and fifth grade students would be required to participate and the 3rd grade students would have the option. The budget would cover science fair boards for each student, some consumable supplies, prizes for winners of the science fair, and a grand prize trip to Anchorage to the state Science Fair in March.

New Business:

- Review NNS School Goals for 2014-2015
  - Math and Attendance - discussed attendance education and incentive options. Could be tied into the Site Council Goals
- Establish Site Council Goals for 2014-2015
  - Move to next meeting
- Discuss school start time
  - Is there any support from site council for an earlier start time at NNS

- Margaret brought up the points that if parents have jobs in town, a 9:00 start time is difficult, and if you have an appointment in town in the afternoon you cannot get your child there without missing a good chunk of our afternoon. If students are not here for a full day, it counts against us on our attendance rating, which ties back into our school goals.
  - The council discussed possible pros and cons. It was asked about the buses and the impact it would have on transportation, as well as on NMHS. It might be easier for parents in the morning. It might have a positive impact on our attendance, if students had time to schedule afternoon appointments in town. Also, siblings to students at NMHS would not miss as much school, being pulled out for sporting events, etc. Boys and Girls club would be impacted and we would have to look into that before moving further. One other point that was made was if lunch times stayed the same and we started 30 minutes earlier, teachers would have a longer chunk of "prime teaching" time in the mornings. Students would benefit by getting all core instruction in the morning. We will look into it further.
- Review KPBSD and NNS budget
    - Most of the Site Council had already seen both budgets. Margaret pointed out some key budget lines. The important thing is the board must pass a budget and as stewards of our business we must get the word out on how that money is spent and why we need what we need. Spread the knowledge!

Tammy Berdahl moved to adjourn. Travis Moore seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting: November 10, 2014 at 3:45. Joint meeting with NMHS. NNS will host.