Soldotna Elementary School

Site Council Meeting

Agenda/Meeting – 10/17/2017

**In Attendance:** Austin Stevenson, Lisa Juliussen, Andrew Shook, Emily Nicholson, Kelli Creglow, Dana Cannava and Hedy Huss.

**Absent:** Steph Hunt

**Meeting Called to Order:** Austin Stevenson

Superintendent Address:

Mr. Dusek thanked the Site Council for their service and explained how important their service was. He presented the Districts New Strategic Plan.

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Old Business:**

* Young American Dance Workshop was cancelled per Sean Dusek due to increased price. Fundraising efforts will be directed elsewhere.
* Playground Improvement discussed with Kelli Creglow volunteering for Sub Committee Chair. She will work with PTO & SMCS.
* Reviewed By-Laws and made amendments, new by-laws typed up and posted to webpage.

**New Business:**

* Council Membership increased
* Elections will be held when needed
* President & Secretary – No Vice
* SOEl Budget was discussed – we have flat lined as far as expenses go. But we have lost staff and hired new employees vs. experienced higher paid employees.

Budget Review meeting was attended by all council members in attendance today. Budget videos were watched. We discussed what can we cut? What questions do we have?

* Our Budget Looks Slim
* We Could Cut Paper Products
* On-Line Text Books & Curriculum
* What is BSA for each School

Questions were asked of the district from the Site Council members the following is what was discussed and asked:

Here are the topics we discussed that I could answer:

How are Federal contributions to education made? This led to a discussion on pass through grants. We talked a lot about the borough cap and what other boroughs pay and don’t pay for education, as well as local need calculations.

We talked about whether it would make sense to close smaller schools. I spoke about funding schools and how size is accounted for.

There were many questions about funding for charter schools… how it works.

We spoke extensively about our own budget, and talked about saving money in supplies.

As a site council we raised the following questions and would like a response from the district:

1. Can the district save money my not mailing out student’s peaks reports and instead simply sending them home with students?
2. Based on the documentation provided, it appears SoEl educates students for about 12k per kid per year. What do other school’s costs per kid amount to?
3. The district projects SoEl to continuously increase the number of students that will be enrolling. Does the district have a plan to address the need for additional space?
4. Since charter schools received BSA, local contribution, and state money designated for gifted education, vocational education etc. as well as federal funds minus an indirect fee, what is the cost difference to operate a charter school per student when compared to a local boundary school serving the same community?
5. What are the collective cost differences between educating child A who attends a charter school in elementary, a boundary school in middle school and high school, and child B who attends all boundary schools? Are there mechanisms to ensure charter schools and boundary schools are allotted the same amount of funding?
6. How does the cost per student go up as students’ progress through their grades in boundary school’s vs charter schools?
7. Would the district save money by completely shifting to online textbooks?
8. How much would the district recoup if charter schools received the same per student allotment as their age level peers in boundary schools?