MIPAC Meeting Minutes

February 25th, 2016

Board Attendees: Greg Hauser, MC Barrosa, Agustin Del Alamo, Audrey Shaw, Jennifer Pang, Julie Fong, Cynthia Chang, Amy Koch, Daniel Wong (by phone), Nicole Loh (by phone)

Absent: Ami Barrett

Guests: Paula Yousef

Meeting started at 2:15pm

Adoption of 1/28/16 meeting minutes, motion made by Daniel, 2nd by Agustin. All voted aye.

Math Expressions vs. Singapore Math for 2016-2017 Academic Calendar

* 3rd and 4th grade students were tested using Smarter Balance style assessments, based on lessons they learned via Singapore Math and Math Expressions. They performed significantly better when taught from Math Expressions, because they were better able to apply real-life situations.
* Teachers feel that Singapore Math does a good job of teaching the concepts, but does not go as deep as Math Expressions (and depth is required for Common Core standards). It also does not require the amount of practice that Math Expressions requires, allowing for better overall understanding. As such, the teachers currently need to supplement with additional practice. Math Expressions offers manipulatives, enrichment activities, etc. where Singapore Math does not (only textbook and workbook).
* When MIP originally adopted Singapore Math, CUSD was still using the Envision math curriculum. The district has since switched to Math Expressions to align better with Common Core. Dr. Henry, the speaker who came to speak to MIP parents about Singapore Math, recently said she believes that Math Expressions is currently the best set of books available for the Common Core standards being taught.
* Motion: Jennifer made a motion to adopt Math Expressions for all grades starting in the 2016-2017 academic year. 2nd by Agustin. All voted aye. Nicole will inform district, and Audrey will inform FoMIP.

Mei Zhou Hua Yu (MZHY) vs. Better Chinese for 2016-2017 Academic Calendar

* Both are necessary for different reasons. One is broad (but often shallow), whereas the other is deep (often difficult, but with more relevant cultural context). Teachers would like to use both MZHY and Better Chinese, choosing content from each text as appropriate.
* Cost impact would only be the cost of purchasing 5th grade books for next year.
* Mr. Hauser will work with lead teachers to determine timelines for when the curriculum framework will be developed. MIPAC would like to have a peer review of the framework once it is completed, either for free or for pay. Cynthia requested help finding this person to do the review. Mr. Hauser suggested either the candidates he has been talking to, or Dr. Lien, and Julie suggested asking other teachers at the annual conference.
* Motion: Julie made a motion to incorporate Mei Zhou Hua Yu (in addition to Better Chinese) for Mandarin curriculum beginning in 2016-2017. 2nd by Mr. Hauser. All voted aye. Mr. Hauser will submit a request to CUSD for approval of MZHY (Better Chinese is already approved).

3rd Grade 50/50 Model

* The 3rd grade students were polled (by show of hands with eyes closed), and approx. 71% preferred 2 teachers. Pros of having 2 teachers included better pronunciation by the English-speaking teacher and knowing when they are supposed to speak English vs. Chinese. Cons of having 2 teachers included having to move classrooms, not having their own desk, and having to carry their things.
* A poll will be sent to the 3rd grade parents to get their input. Audrey to draft. Per Mr. Hauser, the general sense is that the parents are pleased with the arrangement. Per MC, the 50/50 model is very common in immersion programs (throughout all grades).
* From the teachers’ perspective, having 2 teachers enforces each language better, and the students get exposed to a variety of teaching strategies. The negative aspect is the administrative work, which is doubled. However, MC pointed out that planning time is reduced.
* Mr. Hauser suggested switching homerooms halfway through the year, so that the students wouldn’t always have the same subjects in the morning vs. afternoon. Everyone thought this was a good idea.
* Benchmarks not currently available.
* EdJoin position needs to be modified so that it will close in about 3 weeks. Greg to fix this.

Language Immersion Advisory Committee – Update tabled until next month’s meeting.

Self-Assessment Survey / Tool – Discussion tabled until next month’s meeting.

Meeting adjourned 3:07pm.

Next meeting March 17th at 2:00pm.