MIPAC Meeting Minutes

April 28th, 2016

Board Attendees: Audrey Shaw (Chairperson), Daniel Wong (Co-Chairperson – attended by phone), Jennifer Pang (Recording Secretary), Agustin Del Alamo (Parent Representative), Ami Barrett (FoMIP Representative), Greg Hauser (Principal), MC Barrosa (Asst. Principal), Julie Fong (Lead Teacher), Cynthia Chang (Lead Teacher), Nicole Loh (Lead Teacher)

Absent: none

Guests: Paula Yousef (parent), Amy Koch (3rd grade teacher), Karen Wu (parent), Vicky Tai (parent), Samantha Baron (parent), Stephanie Norman (parent)

Meeting called to order at 1:35pm.

Minutes from 3/17/16 MIPAC meeting – Ami motioned to approve, 2nd by Agustin, all in favor.

Self-Assessment Survey – MC Barrosa presented results from the self-assessment survey she had distributed at the 11/19/15 MIPAC meeting. The self-assessment tool was obtained from Guiding Principles for Dual Language Education, Washington, D.C. Center for Applied Linguistics. It can be accessed online at [www.cal.org/twi/guidingprinciples.htm](http://www.cal.org/twi/guidingprinciples.htm) . The tool has 7 “strands”, but MC’s self-assessment survey focused only on the Curriculum strand at this time. Based on seven survey participants made up of Bergeson teachers and admin, the MIP curriculum scored mainly in the “partial” and “full” boxes when the average was considered (possible answers were Minimal, Partial, Full, or Exemplary). Areas that could be improved are vertical coordination / alignment of curriculum (i.e. K to 1st to 2nd etc., but we need to work from 12th grade down) and support services for English learners / Special Education.

Curriculum Update – Teachers met for a half day of planning on 4/27/16 to update framework and curriculum maps to integrate Better Chinese and Mei Zhou Hua Yu. The kindergarten and 1st grade teachers met together, and the 2nd-4th grade teachers met together. Another planning day will happen soon, and the goal is to be done by the end of May. We will ask someone to review the Mandarin curriculum piece once the framework has been completed. English curriculum has already been planned by the district, and math will be based on Math Expressions. Next year’s 5th grade teacher will help determine the best way to teach social studies and science (i.e. the portions of curriculum in English vs. Mandarin).

50/50 Model – Mr. Hauser spoke about the decision to continue with the 50/50 model in 3rd and 4th grades next year, based on results from the parent survey and his discussions with MC and the teachers. Parent representatives on MIPAC expressed that they would have liked to discuss this decision prior to the decision being announced to all parents, since this is what had been outlined at the previous MIPAC meeting. Mr. Hauser explained that there was a time crunch involved, he had to make hiring decisions, and could not wait until today’s MIPAC meeting. But he acknowledged the request to at least inform MIPAC members of such decisions in advance of making them public.

Teacher Hiring – Mr. Hauser has been interviewing, and there have been a couple strong candidates. Since there are not enough English-only students to have three English-only 5th grade classes next year, there is the possibility that Mrs. Murphy (a current 5th grade teacher) would teach the English portion of one of the 50/50 classes in 3rd or 4th grade. The goal is to have all grade level assignments for 2016/2017 known by the end of this school year.

Coordinator Position – The district has approved the position, and the union is currently reviewing it. They should approve by this Friday, and then it can go up on EdJoin. FoMIP has already approved the expense, contingent upon the job description posting.

Aides – The 3 current aides have been re-hired for next year. Looking to hire additional aides.

Class Assignments for Next Year (for students) – There has been some concern among the lower grades that there is not much mixing of classes from year to year. Per Mr. Hauser, they have tried to mix. If parents feel strongly that their child needs a certain type of teacher (not a specific person – he will not honor those requests), they should write a note to Mr. Hauser and he will consider these requests over the summer. But not all requests can be guaranteed. There was also concern that Mrs. Fong has taught the same group of students for the last 3 years. Other students would like to have her as a teacher, and it might be good for next year’s 5th graders to experience a different teaching style, to prepare them for middle school.

Middle School Planning – Mr. Hauser has had one phone call with Tim Reece, principal of Niguel Hills Middle School, since the decision was made on 4/13 to place MIP at Niguel Hills. MC Barrosa has also spoken with him. Jennifer Pang and Paula Yousef met with Mr. Reece in his office, and discussed how MIP might fit into their current structure. Mr. Reece explained that, in 6th grade, they use a “Village” concept whereby 6th graders have fewer teachers during the school day in order to ease them into the middle school setting. For example, a student might have one teacher for English, social science, and PE, another teacher for math and science, and a third teacher for their chosen elective class. From a teacher scheduling perspective, a 6th grade teacher would teach 2 sections of English, 2 sections of social science (history), and 1 section of PE. Discussed whether MIP could fit into this model, since we are looking at one person teaching science (in Mandarin), social science (in Mandarin), and Mandarin Language Arts. In addition, PE is not taught every day. It alternates with a study skills type class, which is taught by a different teacher. This would make it hard to schedule PE as a zero period for 6th graders. Need to discuss further with Mr. Reece. Nicole Loh mentioned that it would be helpful for at least the first couple years to give the MIP middle school teachers an additional prep period, to work on curriculum, etc. MC noted that the teachers in the Spanish immersion program do not get this additional prep period. She also mentioned that, with regard to finding qualified teachers for middle school, teachers can get a temporary (“supplementary”) authorization up through 9th grade in order to teach single subjects. 6th grade teachers can still use their multiple subject credentials.

Audrey reminded the teachers about an upcoming Immersion Teacher/Admin seminar on 5/14 at UCLA.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.

Next MIPAC meeting is on May 12th at 2:00pm.