

SOTA II Steering Committee Minutes
Monday, December 15, 2014

Present: Celine Donofrio, SOTA II Parent; Barb Kilpatrick, SOTA II Parent; Michele Klug, Community Member/Secretary; Wendy Mattison, Community Member/Chairperson; Melissa Murray, SOTA II Principal; Scott Tyink, Community Member; Josh Wolcott, SOTA II Teacher

The meeting opened at 4:00. Minutes from 10/24/14 were approved.

Principal's Report

Last spring, Melissa shared a parent survey with Dr. Harcey and Ms. Rossiter regarding expansion of SOTA II to include 8th grade. She pointed out the current status of SOTA II and how this met board goals. For the past three years, SOTA II had academically out-performed other district middle schools. Enrollment had remained steady, with 100% retention for the coming school year. Half of the current 6th grade enrollment had come from SOTA I. Basically, SOTA II mirrors other district schools in ethnic diversity. The only ethnic group less represented is African American.

Since their attendance at the October meeting, Melissa has had positive conversations with Dr. Harcey and Ms. Rossiter regarding expansion. If the proposal is approved, all current 7th graders will be invited to continue at SOTA without re-application. SOTA II would service up to 60 students (grades 6-8), with 2 full time teachers. Additional students might warrant inclusion of an extra .5 FTE.

There is some recent discussion in the district about combining all charters in one space in the future.

Revision of bylaws has been tabled until the charter contract is rewritten and submitted to the school board in mid-March. The board will review this for approval in mid-April. A group from the Steering Committee will be formed to begin contract work in January. A format used by 7 Rivers and Coulee Montessori will be used. The most extensive revisions will be in the areas of governance, structure, philosophy, pedagogy of SOTA, and enrollment procedures.

Teacher's Report

SOTA II currently serves 36 students. Curriculum is delivered with flexible grouping. Students remain in the SOTA classrooms for all core classes, only leaving for specials and Math.

Seventh graders integrated a variety of skills to organize a food drive in the month of November.

A "coffee house" convenes weekly wherein any student may showcase a creative endeavor.

Socially, the multiage group is doing very well!

All parents will be notified to think about nominations for new Steering Committee members. Parents will be reminded to volunteer or submit nominations at a January parent meeting. Voting will take place at the spring informance. The tentative date for this is Thursday, May 14.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Klug-Secretary