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Encino Neighborhood Council Education Committee
Approved Minutes of September 10, 2015

At 4:35, Chair, Shelley Rivlin called the meeting to order. In attendance were committee members Kathy Kantner and Jean Strauber. Cecily Lerner was excused. A quorum of 3 was established. Also attending: Suzanne Blake and Margaret Kim from Local District NW, Claudia Koochek, Sarah Haimilton, Catalina Lara, Jenn Spillar, Marissa Desiena, and CFO of Westmark, Betsy Mayorga, Cheryl Gray-Sorino, Leon Woodls, Peter Jeenselut, Heather Penrod, Marcia Koff, Rebecca Galvan.

Participants introduced themselves.

The staff of Westmark provided an overview of the school. It is a research-based private school for students with processing disorders and other learning disabilities. It serves students from over 60 local zipcodes and is considered a valuable resource for other schools; parents, too.

Minutes

Jeanne Strauber made a motion to approve the Minutes from August 2015, seconded by Marcia Koff. The motion passed unanimously.

Grant Update

Portola and Reseda received their checks. Shelley Rivlin has scheduled a meeting with Councilman Paul Koretz to ask that the City Council fund the remaining four schools from last year's budget.

The group discussed the selection of a focus area for the committee as a Collaborative Project for involvement and ENC Funding in 2015/16.

- Parent Engagement: Might the ENC host a Town Hall for parents on various topics? For example, on the Common Core State Standards, the CAASP tests, etc. However, it was pointed out that this was discussed at the Principal's meeting yesterday and is being planned at schools.
- Health and Wellness: Local District Superintendent, Vivian Ekchian, is challenging our schools to embrace the idea of problem-solving around the drought, to come up with different projects, such as converting gardens to drought resistant plants. Health and Wellness is another topic being considered with no specific projects identified yet.
- Visual and Performing Arts: local schools could pool resources so that students could see a performance or collaborate on a show which could be held at Reseda High School. Technology could

be integrated into this via film & video cameras/editing equipment, speaker systems, etc. One of the key businesses of LA is the entertainment industry; many parents with connections would be happy to contribute to a collaborative project. Westmark School would be willing to fund a bus to bring students to watch a performance at their school.

Another idea was that the business community might be willing to sponsor equipment and sound systems, or provide other in-kind services. They might be willing to fund a mobile equipment rotation unit, such as a trailer, that could go school to school; they could also assist with media outreach.

Jeanne Strauber made a motion that the ENC Education Committee's primary focus be on Visual and Performing Arts, with the other 3 topic areas incorporated into this. The motion was seconded by Kathy Kantner. The motion passed. unanimously.

Shelley Rivlin will coordinate a meeting for Arts staff from our local schools and community to gather staff input on their specific areas of interest.

Board comment - no staff present for updates.

Reports from District Administrators

Each school will do a presentation to staff and parents about the CAASP test scores. These are a baseline and the data will be used to guide instruction.

PACE group will be doing different community meetings on various topics, such as Common Core, etc.

School Reports:

Crespi -- staff turnover was a challenge. The school enjoys a strong alumni base; the focus now is to encourage more involvement with fundraising. Celt Pride Night was held. New website rollout, took one year; there is an Ed Tech specialist in place to train staff and infuse technology in the classrooms. Crespi offers a 1:1 iPad program. They plan to expand facilities and the aquatic center.

Reseda HS: opening was uneventful. MiSiS worked. The "Four by Four" modified block schedule was started, which allows students to take four more classes than they otherwise could have, with concurrent credit for both HS and college. Grant seeking efforts underway for film equipment, sound equipment, lighting. New course to be introduced: Communication by Design with a media focus. Magnet program is phasing in... iPads are being utilized.

Westmark also introduced a new web system, had to educate parents, etc. New faculty on board, PD ongoing. Ed Tech team put together a manual for the learning resource system. HS went on outdoor educational camping trip for team-building. Focus on articulation from grade to grade, offering individual parent meetings to set out expectations. Westmark offers a 1:1 iPad program; they are uploading new apps, utilizing the Second Step program, also Social Thinking, which is a Social Emotional Learning program.

Portola - MiSiS works better, but it didn't drop the no-shows. Initially teachers saw rosters of 65 plus students which caused anxiety. However, given the students who transferred to other schools or did not show up, class sizes are back to normal numbers. Back to School Night was well attended.

Lanai - New murals brighten the campus. Enrollment numbers holding steady. Back to School Nights were a success. A Meet the Middle School night will be held on October 8, 2015 -- parents from all local elementary schools are welcome to attend.

Encino - smooth start, enrollment numbers look good, staff in place. Construction group made a big donation to the parent group. There is an issue with film shoots in Amestoy Estates failing to provide notice to the school. They will follow up with Film LA, which works through the City Council. Traffic police during film shoots are not helpful. Back To School Night very well attended.

Nestle: Off to an easier start this year. With 600 students, enrollment is a concern. There is no room to grow and Bungalows are too complicated to install. New computers were received last year, also a half time computer lab teacher, who helped with testing. New focus: fundraising. Plan to purchase a marquee to help promote school activities; also to hire a muralist. Orchestra program has experienced glitches: not enough teachers. Back to School night went well. Nestle is exploring the possibility of how to bring in extra funding via after school programs. Parking problems persist. September 11 is Patriot Day.

Emilita: is unfortunately not an affluent school. Opening was great. However, due to low enrollment, they just learned that they have lost a teacher. Classes will be reorganized tomorrow, which stresses families and students, who feel disrupted. Administration must do a lot of hand-holding to calm them down.

Eli Broad Foundation plan to expand L.A. Charter Schools and UTLA response. The committee decided not to address this topic. However, it was noted that a charter school, iLEAD Encino (formerly CAL STEAM) serves our community and should be included in ENC Ed meetings and grant announcements, as should another new school, the Academy for Enriched Sciences. Shelley Rivlin agreed to follow up.

LAUSD Superintendent Search - the committee decided it just wanted updates.

Leon Woods, Chair, Encino Chamber Committee introduced himself. Encino Chamber Ed Committee ; Taste of Encino 11th of Oct, schools can get a booth at no cost. Will be changing their dates and they want to coordinate.

Public Comment: Westmark will now be included in ENC Ed Committee communications.

The Daily News has an education column to promote events. [HowieLandres@LA Newsgroup.com](mailto:HowieLandres@LANewsgroup.com). ENC Ed Subcommittee will also promote events via email communications and its newsletter.

Next meeting TBD; it was agreed that Thursdays are better and 4:30 is preferred.

Jeanne Strauber made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shelley Rivlin. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

A tour of the Westmark school was optional to those who wished to participate.

Respectfully submitted by Shelley Rivlin, committee chair, based on notes taken by Kathy Kantner.

