

**ROOSEVELT  
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL MINUTES**

Attendance for **Thursday, December 17, 2020**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>		<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
	Lynda Holeva	Principal	X	Mollie Esposito	Parent
X	Dana DeGregorio	Teacher	X	Blythe Holden	Parent
X	Mara Chenik	Teacher	X	Grace Huang	Parent
X	Kitty Donohoe	Teacher		Damian Carville	Parent
X	Mike Ostrom	Teacher	X	Victor Thompson	Parent
X	Gerardo Rodriguez	Classified	X	Kat Blandino	Parent

**Meeting Called to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

**Minutes:** Name of Recorder submitting for review: Victor Thompson

Minutes were read by Site Governance council members present. Mike Ostrom moved that the minutes be accepted (as corrected). Kitty Donohoe seconded the motion. Minutes were approved for the November 19, 2020 meeting.

Victor Thompson is recording minutes for this meeting.

**Review of Agenda: Debbie Stern, AP**

Debbie requested that the agenda item “Discuss strategies for communication between SSC meetings” be added to the January 2021 meeting so that Lynda Holeva could be present in order to discuss. Council consented without a formal motion or vote.

**PTA Shareout: Thea Cappicille**

- The second Sip for Roosevelt and Succulents for Roosevelt events were held between SSC meetings, providing community building while contributing to PTA’s fundraising goal.
- Current PTA operations budget is \$32,000, less than half of the \$70,000 goal for 2020-2021. PTA Executive board approved withdrawal from reserves to fund the remaining operational budget for the year. A CD was cashed out to maintain liquidity.
- Fundraising has been a struggle. \$25 raffle for gift cards was extended until the end of December. Mara Chenik reported her Amazon Smile donations amounted to \$314, and asked whether this fundraising mechanism had been advertised sufficiently among parents. Thea informed that all Room Reps are encouraged to mention Amazon Smile

among parents in their classrooms, and that all Smile donations are deposited directly into the PTA's operational funds account.

- Teddy Times on hiatus during two-week break and will resume in January 2021.
- Read-a-thon will take place in January.

### **ELAC Oversight Report: Debbie Stern**

Debbie Stern presented some slides on the status of ELAC.

- She reported that Roosevelt currently has about 50 English learners, down from approximately 70 when the 2020-2021 school year began.
- Every California school with more than 21 English Learner students is required to have a parent-led English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC). Where an ELAC has been established, the committee may also designate a district-level representative, abbreviated DELAC, to advise the school district on the needs of English learners.
- An ELAC informs the SPSA of needs for ELS at the school site
- Debbie Stern and SMMUSD community liaison Elena Uliantzeff have held two of four meetings with varying participation from English learner parents.

### **Questions and Comments:**

Kat Blandino asked about outreach to the parent community explaining the need for an ELAC.

Debbie replied that it's been a big struggle to form an ELAC. She says Roosevelt staff have used emails and phone calls to reach out to parents of EL students to notify them about forming an ELAC. Debbie cited her previous experience at McKinley, (2015-2016) which has a larger EL student population, where there was some challenge maintaining a sizeable ELAC. Debbie stated that it is the responsibility of herself, the school staff, community liaison Uliantzeff and Lynda Holeva to talk to parents regarding ELAC participation.

Victor Thompson asked about how SSC parents can use parent-to-parent outreach efforts to inform parents of EL students about the ELAC's importance without violating school privacy rules.

Debbie replied that Roosevelt cannot and does not share parent contact information for EL families. When there is no ELAC formed, Site Council is tasked with absorbing ELAC responsibilities.

Kat asked whether an ELAC can be formed at any time or if it required a separate, formal process.

Debbie replied that an ELAC can form at any time, and stated that conversations with personal friends who are Roosevelt parents of EL students regarding ELAC are fine.

Debbie requested that the agenda item "Site Governance Oversight of ELAC" be tabled until the January SSC meeting.

### **Safety Plan presentation: Debbie Stern**

Debbie shared a presentation outlining Roosevelt's school safety plan for 2020-2021. Lt. Bill Heric of Santa Monica Police Department attended as an invited guest of Roosevelt staff. Every California school is required to have a safety plan. Debbie said that her presentation focuses only on school site safety, disciplinary measures, suspensions and anti-bullying measures as if students were returning to in-person education during 2020-2021 school year. At the end of the presentation Debbie will ask SSC members to email her their willingness to accept the safety plan and allow her to sign the document on behalf of the SSC members given the logistics of the Document Tracking software that is used to manage the safety plan.

Roosevelt Safety Plan coverage: Most of the language and requirements of the safety plan are boilerplate for all schools. During the district-mandated distance learning in compliance with the current LA County Health Department guidance due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Debbie said that Roosevelt's safety plan is dictated by SMMUSD. The district is responsible for monitoring online safety, defining disciplinary norms and addressing any other incidents that fall under school district purview while students attend school synchronously and asynchronously online.

Safety Plan characteristics: Every SMMUSD school follows the exact same procedures for civil unrest, aircraft crashes, earthquakes and natural disasters.

The document includes names of teachers and staff responsible for incident command and search and rescue operations. Debbie Stern is the incident commander when there is an emergency issue at school, and Lynda Holeva maintains communications with the district. PE coaches and one paraprofessional are the team leaders for search and rescue teams.

Suspensions and disciplinary items: Debbie reported that Roosevelt has had historically low suspensions, far below SMMUSD and state numbers for suspensions, and attributes this to the administration's practice of keeping the child at school to address issues as opposed to sending them home to an uncertain situation outside of school or SMMUSD purview. No suspensions were reported during current distance learning / stay-at-home thus far this year.

Dress code: Students must wear close-toed shoes, bottoms that reach mid thigh or below, and no spaghetti-strap tops. Debbie talks to students about what is expected and what happens if the rules are broken.

Safety Plan approval deadline: Roosevelt's safety plan is due to the school district at the end of January 2021.

### **Questions and Comments:**

Mollie Esposito asked: Were there any changes to the safety plan following an incident that occurred last year?

(Point of clarification: The incident referenced above concerned police presence/search for an unknown person on the perimeter of the school grounds. It occurred during recess, and in the ensuing lockdown some children either took shelter alone or were without the presence of an adult during part of the lockdown period).

Debbie said that no changes were made to the safety plan to mitigate this outcome because the rule is that when an intruder is on campus, students are to get themselves to safety. Everyone did exactly what they were supposed to do, and counseling was made available immediately following and for as long as necessary afterward for students, teachers and staff to utilize.

Mollie commented that it was her son who had to take shelter alone in a classroom, and she commended the school's response during that incident.

Kitty Donohoe remarked that the students were really amazing during the day of the incident.

Kat Blandino asked for clarity around the exact language used to refer to students' clothing. She expressed concern that language that shames or victim-blames students for their clothing not be enshrined in the plan.

Debbie explained that regarding short bottoms and spaghetti straps, the dress code language is around keeping children safe and has to do with students not accidentally exposing themselves when using playground apparatus. We want students to be clothed properly.

Kat also asked about how the safety of what is being transmitted over Zoom video conferences into students' homes is being managed by Roosevelt.

Debbie replied that this issue has been addressed during staff meetings with teachers and in co-admin meetings. Generally, teachers and staff are unaware of what's on the other end of the screen. With regard to reprimanding students, the guidance has been to pull them into a break-out room, and that she has personally not witnessed teachers reprimanding students publicly during distance learning.

Lt. Bill Heric remarked that the Roosevelt safety plan's incident command language seems to borrow a lot of Santa Monica Police Department's language for incident management.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment

**Announcements:**

Next Site Governance meeting: Thursday, 1/21/2021 @ 3:15p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Mara Chenik made a motion to end the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Grace Huang. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.