

Balmer School Council
January 7, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Blaine, Mrs. Lundquist, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Lavoie, Mrs. Underwood, Mrs. Dec

Admin/NES Collaboration

Dr. Stickney and Mrs. Healey did not attend. Mrs. Ross will reach out to them to reschedule.\

Summer Reading

Multiple copies of the suggested books will be brought to our next meeting for review.

We need to do a better job communicating to families about the purpose of sharing the book.

Going forward, we need to determine some potential activities for classes to do once they have read the book.

New School Update

Meetings to design the playground

- 2 playgrounds - Pre-K-2 and 3-5
- Playgrounds situated against the building
- Working group provided feedback to request eliminating or putting blacktop games on the proposed basketball court and to include a walkway to allow access to the field area
- Working group provided feedback on the challenge level/complexity of the equipment
- School council wonders about the inclusion of a Ga-Ga Pit
- Fifth graders wrote to Mrs. Ross and requested an area to play wall ball

Meetings to design instructional spaces

- Requesting increased storage
- Presented with open storage, but teachers on the team requested that storage be more enclosed to lessen the clutter
- Increased the amount of bulletin board space
- Requested that the majority of the space be carpeted, perhaps having two carpeted areas, but worried that it was too high traffic. Suggested mats that come with a storage container.
- Suggested streamlining colors to allow for touch ups and repairs to be made more easily in the future
- Color selection will be drawn for more peaceful hues/color families
- Tables vs desks → Will survey teachers to determine what they would find the most useful
- Suggested removing additional furniture to allow for more space within the classroom
 - Space within the classroom is limited because additional space has been provided for extended learning areas
- Each room will have a small teacher desk

- Grades 3-5 will have low-level, wider lockers with display face on top
- Grades PreK-2 will have cubbies within the classroom
- Each grade level team of teachers will have a collaboration area (desks, file cabinets, refrigerator, microwave, etc.)
- Each floor may be a different color with each area of the floor (perhaps) being a different hue of that color

Substantially Separate Classrooms

- RISE classrooms will have bathrooms and changing tables
- Connect Program having conversations around how to best support students with behavioral challenges in a safe manner
- Resource room furnishings and spaces
- OT/PT
- PE
 - Much larger gym with two teachers instructing simultaneously
- Music and Art
 - Kiln for both primary and intermediate grades
 - Will need to meet to discuss needs for bands and chorus
 - Small spaces for ensemble rooms
- Library
- Makerspace
 - Designed for third-fifth
 - Tools and furnishings for larger children
 - Workbenches with clamps
 - Located on the first floor, but intended for grades 3-5
 - Concrete flooring to allow for ease of clean up

Safety During Construction

- Safety team met with Fontaine Brothers to think about what evacuations will look like during construction
- Parking changes, etc. during construction phase (moving parking)
- Increasing lighting
- Playground usage during construction