

## Canyon View FFO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** 10:10 A.M. Renee Griffith called meeting to order.
2. **Welcome**
  - a. FFO Executive Board
    - i. Renee Griffith – President
    - ii. Laura Hisey – Co-President
    - iii. Kate Darling – Treasurer
    - iv. Renee Kamper – Co-Treasurer
    - v. Carolyn Hanson – Secretary
3. **Approve** – September 2017 Meeting Minutes – Motion approved by Laura Hisey and Patricia Moore
4. **Principal's Report** – Rob Henikman
  - a. The State recrafted their scoring rubric for assigning letter grades to schools and some parents are concerned that Canyon View dropped from letter grade A to B. Canyon View has not decreased in the quality of education that is being provided, the process for assigning letter grades has just changed and the State has decided to put a higher emphasis on student growth to measure a school's grade. This means that a high achieving school like Canyon View does not have as much room for growth as a low achieving school, therefore, the letter grade that is assigned may not reflect the quality of education and opportunities that Canyon View provides.
  - b. New scoring system details:
    - i. Student proficiency (passing) on AzMERIT English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, AIMS Science make up 30% of the grade (vs. about 70% under the old system).
    - ii. Student growth on AzMERIT ELA and Math makes up 50% of the grade (this is where a high achieving school has trouble achieving ever higher growth).
    - iii. English Language Learners' growth and proficiency on AZELLA makes up 10% of the grade.
    - iv. Acceleration and Readiness Measures, including grades 5-8 performance on high school AzMERIT Math, decrease in chronic absenteeism, improved growth of subgroups, and decrease in minimally proficient performance in grade 3 ELA makes of 10% of the grade.
  - c. Canyon View is a letter grade B under the new system, vs. an A under the old system. We can expect that when you are no longer only looking at proficiency. When you already have high proficiency, your margin of growth is much lower, thereby driving the score down.
  - d. Where do we need to focus our efforts? We are already meeting our interventions for math and language. Feel confident intervention is working for Math growth. Language arts have some of the most gains for growth. We expect all kids to grow regardless of where they fall on the proficiency scale. We are still looking at ways we can continue to improve and provide opportunities for student growth.
  - e. CVES feels very proud of our work and our school and confident in our performance. We will continue to stay focused on what is important to our students.
  - f. Arizona Department of Education said they skipped some steps in formulating their letter grades, so the letter grades that were issued are now being called 'Preliminary'.

Canyon View may see an increased letter grade after further refining of the scoring system by the State.

- g. Parent concern was raised that class sizes are increasing and related impact to low math and ELA proficiency rates.
  - i. Response: In first grade we are in the process of hiring a certified full time EA. We are adding a new teacher to 3/4 grade that will bring class sizes down to 25 for 3rd and 4th grade. It's about hiring the right people and utilizing EAs to work with small groups within the classes.
- h. Even our 62% 5th grade math proficiency is the highest in the district. All 5th grade math scores in the district (and even state) faltered significantly this year.
- i. Parent question was raised, has the test been examined to see if there are problems with the questions?
  - i. Mr. Henickman is not sure but will follow up.
- j. Parent question was raised, is there a way to create a larger buffer to ensure small class sizes even with new enrollments?
  - i. Yes, we have guidelines and there is a buffer, probably somewhere around 5 students. When you plan for a large number of children and they don't show up, then you have to ask teachers to leave. You just never know which way it is going to go.
- k. Mrs. Taylor is our new 3/4 teacher from Manzanita and is a wonderful resource for our kids and our school.
- l. We would never use one data point to measure our kids. Unfortunately, that is how schools are measured. Learning is about real-world experiences, so if you have to put in place a labeling system, it is not going to reflect the greater picture of all the offerings that CVES provides to the students.
- m. If you are concerned about your child's education, go to your teacher and get involved, volunteer in class or for an event, join the FFO, help with STEAM club, etc.
- n. We have a lot of extracurricular activities that provide growth and well-roundedness that makes Canyon View unique, not a single score on a test.

#### **5. Foundation Report**

- a. Tapas for Teachers – 15% increase from last year's attendance.

#### **6. Community Schools**

- a. Spots are open for intramurals and capture the flag for the Fall session.

#### **7. President's Report**

- a. CVES Spelling bee is coming up. Final December practice is the only one that is required. Contact Carrie Clancy at [carriyclancy@icloud.com](mailto:carriyclancy@icloud.com) to get the list to practice at home.
- b. Box tops need to be returned by Oct. 20th.
- c. Canyon Boo is on Fri, Oct 27, 6-8pm. Volunteer spots are still open. See signup email that was sent out. Need volunteers to help decorate after school. We will do a candy drive next starting next week. Trinkets are accepted as well. We need decorations donated, even loaned just for the event that you take back home with you. Needed for the courtyard, the bridge, and different pod areas. Put your name on them if you are going to want them returned to you.

- d. Book fair sign up is coming soon. Will be sent out by email this week. Runs 10/30 – 11/3 in the extra 3rd grade room. Wild west theme so please loan decorations if you have them. Parent preview at Canyon Boo!
- e. CV Veterans day walk 11/10 at 8am. Meet in the CV parking lot and walk over to Sabino Canyon as a group.
- f. Direct Donation Campaign is still ongoing to fund our teacher and field trip grants.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

- a. Nothing new to report.

**9. Old Business**

- a. Nothing new to report.

**10. New Business**

- a. Valentine's dance is going to be Friday, 2/9/18.
- b. Spring Carnival and Silent Auction is going to be Friday, 4/20/18. We will be accepting donations for the auction.

**11. Meeting adjourned:** 11:23am.

Our next FFO community meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

*Carolyn Hanson, CVES FFO Secretary XX/XX/XXXX*