



Cindy Latino, Principal

Lakisha Valentine, Assistant Principal

Family Engagement Meeting

December 13, 2022 / 5:15 - 6:00 p.m.
Escondido Library

Minutes

Minutes were taken by Cassandra Jennings, Committee Chair

In Attendance: Sign-In Sheet (See Attached)

- **Agenda:** (See Attached)
- **Welcome:** Jennings welcomed parents and staff member to the meeting.
- Introduction: Introductions were not necessary since we all know one another.
- Briefly discussed Family Engagement and how the school would like to include more events for our Lion families.
- **Breakfast with Santa (BWS) After Action:**
Mrs. Lee mentioned that compared to last year's long lines to get in and get the breakfast, this year was much better.
Ms. Simmons stated that the timing was unfortunate due to the Girls on the Run 5K being held the same day and the same time. In planning next year's event, we will make every effort to avoid scheduling both events on the same day so staff and students would not have to choose between the two events.
Mrs. Boudreaux felt the event went well, she mentioned that the parent turnout here is always amazing. She mentioned that she liked the pre-paid Breakfast tickets and inquired if we would consider pre-selling activity tickets, as well. Mrs. Jennings explained that the idea had been discussed in the planning meeting with administration and we had decided not to pre-sell

activity tickets since they could easily be bought at a store and the school could potentially lose money.

Additionally, it was mentioned that some parents indicated displeasure at standing in line to get checked-in and then having to stand in another line to purchase tickets.

Bigger and better, more visible signage to direct parents was suggested. There was an inquiry about how are athletic events at the middle and high schools able to hold events without check-ins.

Mrs. Jennings inquired if we had enough activities and snack booths this year being that that was a concern from the previous year's BWS. All parents stated there were enough activities, but pushing the grade level activities into the pods instead of having everything in the main hallway would provide more space for people to move around.

Another suggestion was to possibly have activities that would include making keepsakes or gifts for parents.

Mrs. Jennings explained that we would need more people to help "man" the booths and maybe we could ask for some parent volunteers to help with the manpower.

Mrs. Lee inquired about why we no longer have a Santa Store. Ms. Simmons stated that the Santa Store was something that fell under the PTO. Escondido currently does not have a PTO. All parents agreed that they would like to see it come back. At this point, we discussed the administration's desire to reinstate the PTO at Escondido. Mrs. Jennings asked parents to speak with neighbors and friends whose children attend Escondido if they would be interested in serving on the PTO. Ms. Simmons and Mrs. Jennings described how funds raised by a PTO have fewer limitations on how they can be spent, whereas, the school funds have numerous restrictions since they are distributed from federal and state entities to be used exclusively on students. Ms. Simmons discussed how there was a Dinner with Santa one year.

Additionally, her previous school had a Family Cultural Night that included foods, traditions, dances, and dress from different cultures around the world. Each grade level would present a country they had learned about and student who attended received a passport that they would get stamped after they

visited each grade level. Both moms mentioned that they liked the idea and Mrs. Beaudreaux added that a Talent Show would also be fun.

- **Spring Semester Activities & Events:**

Mrs. Jennings went over the upcoming activities and events and parents were in agreement that all should continue as planned.

Mrs. Beaudreaux added that she would really like to see a Mother/Son dance that mirrors the Father/Daughter dance. Her son expressed that he wanted to go to a dance with his mom and was disappointed that he did not have the opportunity to do so last school year.

Both moms expressed their appreciation for the End-of-the-Year Parent's Night Out Dance. They also mentioned that their students loved it. Mrs. Jennings stated that the students who attended had a great time just hanging out with their friends outside of school.

- **Questions, Comments, Concerns:**

Mrs. Beaudreaux mentioned that she would like for there to be more pictures of older students on the Facebook and ClassDojo posts. She stated that there are many pictures of younger students. Mrs. Lee agreed.

Mrs. Jennings asked how is the school-to-home communication and Mrs. Beaudreaux stated that Ms. Latino made weekly calls last school year, however, they are not happening as frequently this school year. Parents then asked if there was a Skyward option to get school announcements.

Last school year, Mrs. Beaudreaux inquired about the monthly calendar be posted and updated on our school website. Ms. Simmons stated that we could possibly make a monthly Google calendar and she would look into seeing what she can do. Teachers would be able to go in and edit the calendar, as needed. Ms. Simmons also will look into seeing if we can possibly post our newscrew updates on ClassDojo, since it is a closed platform. She will not be able to post or upload the newscrew to Facebook because it is an open platform/forum.