

Transition Meeting for Ashgrove P.S. and Garthwood Park P.S.

1st Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2013

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Clelia Trinca, Peggy Bell, Laura Thompson, Joan Madray, Shannon Morrell, Kelly Leslie, Melanie Nicholson, Evelyn Veit, Anjum Dar, Anna Carbone, Bani de la Rea, Jennifer Luxmore-Begin, Simonese Edwards, Shari Nickle, Wendy Dowling.

Clelia welcomed everyone to the meeting. We shared our perspectives about traditions, activities, communication and hopes for the transition.

Wendy Dowling discussed the Role of this Transition committee. We have 4 components to think about: Building Collaborative Culture, Historical Memorabilia, Inventory and Communication. She asked those of us around the table to write down what each of these components is or looks like to us.

This is what we came up with:

Building a Collaborative Culture – ways to make new students feel welcome, to take away the idea of us versus them, and have the children thinking “we” promoting inclusion.

Historical Memorabilia – What items from Ashgrove need to be kept either for display or to be used. Items that may need to go to a particular family or person. There is a policy in place that we need to follow. Things to consider – Records, photos, donations, trophies, antique artifacts, art work and building fixtures. Where do these items go, if they don't go to the new school? We need to value the meaning of the artifacts and history.

Inventory – Much of this has started (library and technology items). There is a process for inventory in place, but it can be edited to suit a particular situation. The need to begin purging was emphasized.

Communication – We will post information on the schools website. Parents can contact their Parent/Teacher Council, and Principal. Encourage people to come out to Council meetings. We will also designate a place for people to write and leave questions, and someone will get them the answer. Synvoice can also be used to help keep parents informed. We need to be sure the message from both schools is the same. We will use a variety of methods to communicate. Sending an email to the school's generic account could be possible - ashgrove.ps@peelsb.com. Children's voice will be included and invited.

The role of this committee is advisory.

Clelia and Shari discussed the activities already started and future plans to get our two school communities familiar and engaged with each other. The children, by class and grade, have started blogs and twitter. They are able to talk to each other, share ideas and this is monitored by their teachers (teachers are able to leave comments also). On November 25, Ashgrove students, Grades 1-5 will visit Garthwood Park to learn a collaborative dance MECA-Dance.

Renderings of Garthwood Park were displayed. It showed the current layout and the layout after changes/additions.

Garthwood Park will host a parent event on Monday, December 2nd from 9 to 10 a.m. called "Learning with Technology" with James Cash.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. at Garthwood Park.

Future Agenda Items:

See/hear more details about construction
Inventory, how that is progressing
Have a rough list of Historical Memorabilia
Communication – is it working?