

## **BLT Meeting Minutes**

**October 13, 2009**

**3:30 – 5:00pm**

### **Attendees**

Phil Crocker, Beverly Raines, Lily Ulmer, Carrie Wheeler, Rich Conner, Lisa Bogen, Shirley Rybock, Bobby Mullins, Linda Cutler, Lisa Reeves, Melissa Denke, Margaret Bolger

### **Welcome**

Bev opened the meeting by welcoming Melissa Denke as the PTA representative who will be attending BLT meetings going forward.

### **Celebrations**

Phil noted that the Seattle Public School's new student assignment boundaries provide a clear path from Lawton through high school. This is something to celebrate as an obvious assignment has been lacking in our cluster. Many people in our community worked very hard to help make this happen. Rich talked about the 1<sup>st</sup> grade Curriculum Night last week and felt that it was very successful. Several others agreed and felt that it was beneficial to include the student and his or her family in the event. Some of the teachers in the upper grades have expressed an interest in hosting a similar open house for families.

### **Enrollment**

Beverly stated that the current enrollment at Lawton is 436 students down from 468 reported at the last meeting. Most classes have 24 to 25 students per class.

### **Goals for 2009-2010**

Bev asked for suggestions as the BLT looks to define goals for the 2009-2010 school year. The following topics were discussed.

### **School Counselor**

Beverly is concerned that Lawton does not have a school counselor. The BLT made the decision in 2008-2009 to keep class sizes down in lieu of a school counselor. The decision was made to utilize outside counseling resources when needed. The counseling resources currently being utilized include Heather Needham and Sue Schultz. Ms. Needham works primarily with girls in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to discuss social and emotional challenges. Ms. Schultz is the current special education teacher and will be at Lawton through December 2009. There was also some discussion about the nurse providing counseling for students. All counselors must have state certification. Phil committed to providing information on outside counseling. Beverly will provide Phil with an approximate number of students in need of counseling.

### **C-SIP**

Beverly noted that the Continuous School Improvement Plan (C-SIP) is a high priority for the BLT this year. The revised C-SIP is due to the district by October 31, 2009. There is a new format that must be used. The staff met last week, reviewed the C-SIP and provided suggested revisions. Lily, Carrie and Lisa are summarizing the revisions. A list of changes will be submitted to the BLT by Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> via email. The BLT members will

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then review the changes and submit responses by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> for the staff meeting the following week. It was discussed that the C-SIP will continue to be a guiding document for the school going forward.

### **Safety**

Lisa Reeves noted that one goal for the BLT this year would be to complete the safety program started in 2008-2009. The chairs of the BLT safety committee are Lisa Reeves and Bev. This initiative included signage in the classrooms, emergency kits in classrooms, and emergency food and water supplies for students and staff. This year the items to be completed are classroom signage, updating food and water supplies, and perhaps CPR training for the staff. There is currently \$600 in the PTA budget this year for safety initiatives.

### **Student Placement & Spectrum Program**

For the 2009-2010 school year, the Seattle School District mandated that Lawton group all of the Spectrum students in the same classroom per program design. This is a change from the “blended” model utilized by Lawton in the 2008 - 2009 school year. Phil noted that this is a strategic change for Lawton based on the C-SIP completed in 2008. It was suggested that a meeting for interested parents be held to get an idea of where the Lawton community falls on this issue.

There was some discussion about ways to accomplish a blended Spectrum model. Carrie mentioned that View Ridge is another Spectrum school in the district that continues to utilize a blended model. Phil noted that there are district waivers that can be used to tailor any program to a specific school. Beverly stated that she would be happy to discuss the issue but she doesn't believe it is her role to advocate for a blended Spectrum model at the district level. She would encourage the community to do so if the blended model is desired.

One issue of concern is special education. Lawton's special education program is considered an integrated comprehensive service (ICS). Carrie stated that a truly integrated special education program would be difficult if the advanced learning model is not also integrated. A couple other issues on this topic were discussed including teacher selection/fit and curriculum dilution.

The staff has not fully discussed their opinions relating to a blended or self-contained model for Spectrum. The BLT would like a consensus from the staff in order to determine how to proceed on the issue. To obtain feedback from staff, a letter will be emailed to all staff to survey them on this topic. Phil will be authoring the letter and will email the letter to Bev by Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Bev will then forward the letter to the BLT for input. When the BLT approves the letter, Linda will forward the letter via email to the staff. The BLT will then review staff feedback.

### **Math Improvement**

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Beverly suggested that one area of focus for Lawton should be mathematics. She mentioned that the WASL test results reported for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in 2009 show that 20–30% of Lawton students require additional services to succeed. In particular, there has been a drop in math scores. This is the third year that the Everyday Math program has been in place at Lawton. Everyday Math was a district curriculum decision. Beverly is currently looking for additional resources to supplement Everyday Math. Shirley stated that the Everyday Math program could take up to 3 years to sink in. In general, it's a good program that has worked well for her in the past but it does require supplementing the material when it comes to basic skills. One way to do this is by working with parents to reinforce the basic skills. It was also noted that there is an Everyday Math course available for teachers to help them teach the curriculum; however, the course is often full.

Additional math tutoring is needed. Lawton's current math tutoring resources include: Scott Davenport, who provides math tutoring for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders; Ms. Dial, who provides some math tutoring during the after school Homework Club; and Re-Teach, an after school program which provides some math tutoring. The SSIA can also provide tutors upon request. There is currently \$5,000 in the 2009-2010 PTA budget for tutoring.

### **Testing**

Beverly stated that she is evaluating various student measurement tools. The DIBELS testing that has occurred over the past couple weeks has shown that there are some very strong readers at Lawton. The DIBELS testing results will be discussed with families at parent teacher conferences later this fall. Beverly believes that it is essential to evaluate reading skills at the end of the year as well in order to measure student progress.

There is a new assessment tool that the district rolled out this year call MAPs. The tool evaluates reading and math several times a year in order to monitor student progress and indentify holes in learning. This is valuable resource; however, the tool is not available to schools without a dedicated computer lab. Lawton's computer lab was disassembled at the end of the 2008 - 2009 school year to add an additional classroom. It is anticipated that the MAPs assessment tool will be available next year. The district is working on laptop resources that can be utilized in schools that lack a computer lab.

### **Action Items**

- Phil email Bev a draft letter requesting Spectrum student assignment preferences from the staff by Friday, Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>
- Bev forward the staff letter to the BLT for feedback (prior to the distribution of the letter to staff) by Monday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>
- BLT respond via email with any comments on the staff letter by Wed, Oct. 21st
- Linda forward BLT reviewed staff letter by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Lily email BLT summary of C- SIP staff revisions by Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>
- BLT provide feedback on C-SIP revisions by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

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- Beverly provide number of students in need of counseling services to Phil by Friday, Oct. 23rd

Submitted by Margaret Bolger, 10/14/09