

Minutes: Joint GRVNC Ad Hoc & Mar Vista Community Council Education Committees Meeting, Vera Davis McClendon Center, May 11, 2006

Present: DeDe Audet (President, GRVNC; tape recorder), Rick Selan (Acting GRVNC Ad Hoc Ed Comm Chair, for Naomi Nightingale), Loren R. Grossman (GRVNC; minutes recorder), Steven Angel (Drumming for Your Life Institute), Amy Lawrence (Chair, Mar Vista Community Council Ed Comm), Rob Kadota (MVCC Ed Comm), Cliff McClain (Vera Davis McClendon Center)

Absent: GRVNC Ad Hoc Ed Comm Chair, Naomi Nightingale

Start: 7.15 pm

Previous minutes: all minutes for 1/06, 2/06, & 3/06 GRVNC Ad Hoc Ed posted; no minutes for 04/06 meeting available for approval

Presentation: Steven Angel, discussing how his Drumming for Your Life Institute (Santa Monica-based non-profit organization working with youth) has successfully raised students' reading scores in local schools (inc. Westminster ES pilot), after school programs, juvenile halls, LA County Mental Health, teachers' professional development, etc. Currently being studied by Dr. Lesser at Harbor UCLA. \$75-150/hour/class, for 8-12 sessions.

Summer work:

- Sharing with parents/community school governance issues & rights: want more parent/community participation. What about developing a flyer for parents/community on what participation opportunities are already in place in the schools (e.g., room parent, school leadership council, etc.); Amy will contact Brenda Boulder at LAUSD District 3 to get parent/community literature which could be reworked for the NC's.
- Special education: Special ed parents need to know their rights; again, LAUSD/District 3 may have lit.
- Gifted ed: Westchester HS & Wright MS looking to replace dropping student population with "themed" small learning centers or charters, eg., highly gifted.
- Venice Skills Center: status unknown.
- Broadway ES: Animo Green Dot Charter Senior High (9-12) next door (west side) may be developing joint K-8 charter with Broadway ES (K-5 now; K-6 for fall 2006), with Principal Ed Romotsky in charge of K-6, & Animo Green Dot Charter 7-8 MS principal; construction of more permanent buildings on campus to begin this summer.
- 6th grade now optional in some LAUSD ES: Broadway (see above) & Beethoven approved to add 6th grade back to ES; Walgrove request to add 6th turned down.
- Free after school tutoring: federal government's compensatory ed program authorized by No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, available to all students attending Mark Twain MS, Title 1 Program Improvement School; "lowest achieving children from low income families" also entitled to Public School

Choice transfers to schools which are not Program Improvement Schools (e.g., not Marina MS), with LAUSD-provided transportation. (Note that this is the LAUSD Open Enrollment period, although there are very few seats in fact available at local schools.) These programs, esp. tutoring, need to be more widely publicized (Amy?), so parents can get \$1,500 (?) equivalent in 1:1 tutoring, if applied for by 6/30 or 9/30 (?).

By 9/06, MVCC plans to issue pamphlet on introduction to local public school structure. Next public school-related publication, due in early 2007, will be on students' life and study skills.

Continued discussion re "institutionalized racism" at Mark Twain MS (see above), looking at context of earlier Santa Monica HS racial "situation" & Mark Twain "riots" with court citations issued. Previous GRVNC ed comm meetings had discussed making a flyer on these issues & distributing before school, before Twain's open house next week (no action taken). Need to broaden "racial unrest" school issues to include sexism, gender discrimination, language, class, etc. Where are these problems coming from? Bused in kids (who will be going back to their home schools in next 5 years when their new schools are built)? What about dealing with them through peer mediation programs? Museum of Tolerance training? Need/want long term institutional support to deal with these problems. Venice 2000 & LA Bridges (already at Mark Twain & Venice HS; effectiveness questioned)?

Discussion of collaborative effort between GRVNC & MVCC ed comms, to benefit shared Venice/Mar Vista Walgrove corridor schools, as well as Richland Av ES on soundproofing against I-10 & Santa Monica Airport noise (Amy).

Public comments and announcements: Sign-in sheets: visitors asked to sign sheets voluntarily so that facilities opening their community rooms for our meetings can keep track of numbers of individuals utilizing premises for planning/budgeting purposes. All visitors are welcome, whether or not they choose to sign in. Brown Act may require such sheets to have disclaimer re voluntary nature of signature; attendance not conditioned upon signature/registration.

How will complaints against the GRVNC for Brown Act violations be handled? Need to set up formal complaints process. Issue: posting minutes and agendas in timely fashion for public to be well-informed ("Sunshine").

Status of Committee as Ad Hoc or Standing?

Adjourned: 9.00 pm.

Next meeting June 29, 7-9 pm, Venice Family Clinic, Rose Av.

Joint meeting with MVCC scheduled for Friday, June 30, @ 6-9pm, @ Mi Ranchito Restaurant on Washington