# November 12, 2012. 6:00-7:30 PM

Tusculum Elementary School

Family Resource Center (FRC)

## Parent Advisory Council Minutes

1. **Introductions**
	1. We all introduced ourselves and I told my background. If you have questions about my background, please feel free to ask me.
2. **Role/goal of FRC**
	1. The FRC is here to help our school, our students, and our families be successful.
	2. It is very general so that each FRC can meet the needs of its own school.
3. **Purpose of PAC**
	1. The PAC is made of teachers and parents from this school.
	2. The PAC meets quarterly—4 times a year.
	3. The PAC exists to discuss the needs of the school and the community and to develop a plan to address those needs.
	4. The PAC determines how the PAC/FRC money is spent. We have $900 left after buying food and supplies for the FRC. We will determine how to spend that money to help the school and FRC.
4. **Tusculum Strengths and Needs**
	1. This is an exciting school with lots of diversity. There are so many cultures and we all want to embrace and celebrate that culture.
	2. Tusculum has a history of pulling together to help when in need. So we know we can do it now.
	3. Many of our families do not know English. This is a huge barrier for almost everything.
	4. Parents do not know each other and so cannot support each other.
	5. Parents are not very involved due to: language/culture barrier, busy schedules, and not knowing how to be involved.
	6. Many parents are worried about losing their home culture.
	7. Some of our undocumented families are afraid that American born families will report them so they do not get involved.
	8. At events, the language barrier is so intimidating that people do not meet each other.
5. **Ideas**
	1. Tusculum international fair—everyone loves this idea! We could provide education on different cultures. Give families a chance to show their culture and celebrate it and give American born families a chance to learn about the cultures.
	2. Coffee and conversation mornings—have regular parent only mornings for families to meet and converse. Having food always lowers barriers. ☺
		1. Further idea- have those morning be small cultural mornings. Each culture take turns talking about themselves. They could have pictures and food and clothes from their homeland. We could have a poster with things like:
			1. Things you might not know about me\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			2. Things you think you know about me but don’t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			3. How to become my friend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			4. Things to never say or do to me or with me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
			5. Things you should say or do to me or with me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
	3. Teachers/Grades have parent meet events to specifically engage parents with each other.
	4. At school events, teachers make it a point to introduce parents to each other.
	5. At school events, have parents host games, booths, etc. to free up teachers time and to engage parents.
	6. Be intentional about inviting specific parents—Especially English speaking parents because they are sometimes nervous to come.
	7. Get signs for the translators to hold at events to make it known which languages they speak so we know who can help.
	8. Have parents who are bilingual and willing to help wear a shirt or hat telling which languages they speak.
	9. The PAC approved using PAC funds to buy supplies for signs and for hats.
	10. PAC funds will also be used as needed for Coffee and Conversation groups as needed.
6. **Upcoming Event: December 11th Partner Celebration**
	1. The FRC also has quarterly partner meetings. This first meeting will be held to thank current partners (churches, businesses, other non-profits) for their support and to tell them other ways to help. We will have wishes from the teachers that partners can fulfill.
	2. Need Decorations—If you can, loan the FRC decorations for this event—they are needed just for the day. Small Christmas trees are particularly needed.
	3. Need Food—If you can, provide food/drink for the event.
7. **Next Meeting**
	1. Suggestion—January 16, 2013, 6pm. Please let me know ASAP if you can come.
8. **Adjournment**
	1. The teachers will go back to other teachers and encourage idea development and finding ways to help parents meet each other. They will discuss having class/grade parent meetings to encourage parent involvement.
	2. Kindergarten is having a kindergarten only event and will report back how it went, ideas they gained, some “what to do/what not to do’s”…
	3. Parents will encourage other parents to get involved. Invite them to events. Tell them about FRC classes.
	4. Sarah, the FRC Director, will purchase supplies for Thursday’s game night to make signs for the translators who can come.
	5. Sarah will do research on having a Coffee and Culture mornings for the parents. Information will be provided on that.
	6. Sarah will talk to Dr. McMahan about an International Fair.

Thank you for such a great team!! Great things are coming.

We ARE better together!

Sarah Carpenter, FRC Director

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