



Site Council Minutes, 04/11/19

- ❖ **Community and Staff Present** - Maria Basargin, Fenya Basargin, Drasida Basargin, Mavra Afonin, Stephanida Basargin, Maria Fefelov
- ❖ **Welcome- sign-in**
- ❖ **Dates to Remember** – Reviewed upcoming dates on the school calendar.
- ❖ **Math Festival** – Marilyn Duncan introduced & discussed the upcoming Math Festival that will be held April 19th. This would involve all students K-5 (even the PreK children). The event would be filled with a variety of math games at different skill levels and content areas, and not every game has to be played in a group. Parents are encouraged to attend.
- ❖ **FY19 Graduation Update** – Based off last month’s Site Council feedback, Greg confirmed with families one whose children will participate in the 8th Grade Promotion / 12th Grade Graduation that the FY19 Event will be held in the village of Razdolna, rather than in Homer. The timing will remain the same - 1:00pm. Greg also confirmed that future graduation events will remain in Razdolna, unless there is an overwhelming consensus that families wish the ceremony to be held elsewhere. Finally, a reminder was given that incoming high school students will be expected to contribute an amount of \$20-\$25 for the graduation ceremony expenses.
 - Greg opened the idea of a village speaker / representative that would provide a motivational or inspirational word to the 8th Graders and graduating students. STC participants recommended several potential village members.
- ❖ **Just “The Basics”** – Greg introduced a district partnership program entitled, “The Basics,” where families in need of outdoor shoes may apply thru the school for those shoes.
- ❖ **Feedback Opportunity for Next Year**
 - Newsletters - Razdolna School intends to provide newsletters digitally via a single PDF through the Razdolna Village WhatsApp thread. Newsletters will continue to be sent out every two weeks. STC participants agreed to this delivery medium, as the printed version doesn’t always reach families. STC participants expressed a wish to continue the newsletter frequency for the FY20 year.
 - Afterschool Programs - For the FY20 year, STEAM Team would like to extend the afterschool program to Middle School students, and would to increase the frequency of the afterschool program throughout the week. This additional program would run in addition to the current STEAM Team program, which occurs 2x per week for several hours each day, and would focus on enhancing protective factors and reducing risk factors in substance abuse. After Greg reviewed the details with STC participants, there was a general expressed concern with the frequency of the program. Due to needs and chores at home, parents generally felt that the additional program would take their children too much out of the home. Greg will send this feedback to the STEAM Team Coordinator.
 - Successful Adult in Razdolna - Greg is working on a document that informs staff on what success looks like in the village of Razdolna. When inquired, STC participants virtually confirmed input from a recent school staff meeting. This input included: self-employment, captains/owners of fishing



vessels, married and raising children, financial wealth, community leaders (volunteers in weddings, funerals, etc.)

- ❑ **Classroom Grade Level Configuration** - STC Participants were introduced to potential grade level configurations for the FY20 MS/HS students. In all possible configurations, school staff would like to keep the FY20 6th Graders (2 students total) with th Two options were presented for feedback:
 - **Option 1:** Except for the two 6th Grade students, the school will continue the same grade level cohort for FY20 as it's been in FY19. In other words, students in Grades 9-12 (student #s - 30) would be together, and Grades 7-8 (student #s - 17) will have class together.
 - **Option 2:** Except for the two 6th Grade students, students in Grades 7-9 (student #s - 27) will have class together, and Grades 10-12 (student #s - 20) will be together.
 - Greg and STC participants discussed the pros & cons of both arrangements, which focused on class size, instructional and classroom management needs. The STC participants would support either option; however, if Option 2 was decided upon by the school, they would like (at minimum) one classroom aide in the classroom at all times.
- ❑ **Student-Parent Handbook** - Advanced notice was given to STC participants of a Student-Parent Handbook that's currently being drafted, and would be planned for the FY20 school year. Parents were invited to provide feedback on what they would like to be included in the handbook.

❖ **KPBSD Budget & Staffing Update** - Greg identified potential effects that the ongoing budget issues could have for Razdolna School. The most visible effects could include staffing cuts in terms of teachers and classified hours. Parents were encouraged to voice support for the school in district and/or borough budget meetings.

❖ **Other Discussion Items (not listed on agenda)**

- ❑ **RoboCalls** - Greg gave general notice of the school's plan to implement a RoboCall system for students who are listed as "Absent" during school. General consensus from STC participants was that the system could increase parental awareness of times when their child wasn't in school. STC participants were informed that all unexcused absences will trigger a daily phone call to parents.
- ❑ The RoboCall discussion led to two other discussion points.
 - **Off-Campus Students** - parents have noticed children off-campus, either at home or another location, without their awareness. In lieu of need to increase awareness, Greg promised to speak with teachers about the issue, and require all students to have parental permission before leaving campus. Student notice of their mother/father giving permission will not suffice.
 - **Non-Academic Activities** - During the "Off-Campus Students" discussion, several STC participants informed Greg that their child(ren) has stayed at home due to "games" being played in their classroom, or outside. Furthermore, STC participants mentioned that due to non-regular classroom activities that didn't focus on academics (i.e., math, reading, etc.), students didn't feel a need to attend class. Specific examples were identified to Greg, and Greg promised to review those activities with teachers, and work with teachers on increasing the academic focus in the classroom.
 - **Russian Language Teacher** - Shortly after the budget/staffing topic was discussed, a question was raised on the reasons why the school had a half-time Russian Language teacher. While



Greg didn't have the full answer at the time, he promised to research the question, and respond back at a later meeting. STC participants emphasized a strong wish for a full-time Russian Language teacher, and noted how the original job posting for a Russian Language teacher was full-time at Razdolna only. STC participants also noted that at the beginning of the discussion for a Russian Language teacher, the village identified a state law requiring schools to provide bilingual education (possible reference to AS 14.30.400. Bilingual-Bicultural Education)

◆ **Meeting Adjourned**