

## **EVENING EXPECTATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS**

March 2018

Participants from the Collaborative Resolution Team (CRT) meeting reviewed the *Evening Events - Teacher Expectation* survey results from our ten elementary school sites. We found that expectations varied, as did solutions. We want to acknowledge that elementary teachers are working really hard; when adding evening events, this should be done with careful planning and consideration for teachers' already heavy workload.

In looking forward, we would like to share some guiding statements for principals and site leadership teams to consider when developing evening programs for the 2018-2019 school year, except for Back-to-School Night and Open House.

## **Guiding Statements for 2018-2019 Planning**

- Principals should clearly communicate to parents your expectations for teachers and night events.
  Principals can message the importance of teachers spending time with their families and getting a
  good night's sleep to be their best with their students. The first priority for our teachers' time and
  energy is what happens in the classroom with our students.
- 2. In collaboration with teachers, the principal should develop a master calendar of all site evening events prior to the start of the school year. This will help divide the workload.
- 3. Principals should clearly communicate to staff when they are not obligated to attend an evening event and encourage them to opt out.
- 4. Teachers should feel comfortable not attending optional evening events. If it is important for teachers to attend, it should not be optional.
- 5. Consider stipends for evening events for the teacher coordinator and teachers required to attend.
- 6. Consider limiting the number of parent education nights. Do fewer nights well.
- 7. Consider backing up parent meetings to events (e.g., ELAC meeting before Back-to-School Night or Open House).
- 8. Consider combining events such as Open House and STEAM Night.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

Clear language should be negotiated between district and SLCTA to replace the current vague, ambiguous language in the section of the contract that addresses this issue.

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