

School Council Meeting Notes
Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Present: Laura Horst, Kirsten Alper, Deb Azarzar, Charu Puri-Sharma, Grace Fehrenbach, Allyson Hart, Heather Hoganson, Nira Pollock, Keith Carson, Max Hunter

Welcome & Introductions:

Our Norms

- Start and end on time
- Assume positive intentions
- Monitor/share air-time
- Keep a whole school perspective
- Be open to discussion and feedback
- Listen to others & be open to input received after being listened to
- Transparency: avoid hidden agendas –rather, be open
- Maintain an environment of respect and inclusion
- Operate under professional code of ethics

Our Purpose:

- To collaborate and assist in the creation of our School Improvement Plan that ensures equitable access for all.
- To hold ourselves accountable for the progress towards each of our SIP goals.
- Keith: are we doing it or only assisting in its creation?
- Laura: overview of the SIP
- Passed out the comics that depicted different situations about equity vs. equality

Our Mission:

- To assist in crafting an inclusive and thoughtful School Improvement (SIP) that is our road map to ensure equitable access to a high quality public education for all students at Lawrence School.

Conversation and Reflection on Comics:

- Big ideas raised during this conversation:
 - Raise all the boats
 - How do you define inequity? Test scores, personal opinion?
 - How do you define need?
 - Don't always look at the quick fix, don't always do what you have always done, look for other ways, (stairs)
 - Are you truly raising the experience of all kids? Keep that in mind when setting goals

- With limited resources, when giving to some are you taking a way from others? That has to be done with communication and thoughtfully
- Last comic is most glaring. Shows how rich get richer and poor get poorer.
- The last picture struck her the most. Even though you teach one grade because you have kids who are functioning at above and below grade level.
- It is assumed the tallest kid is enjoying the experience the most (the last image), which is an assumption.
- We want them to be in the game
- We should give them the access to the boxes and not just give them what they “need” based on what we think

Review of SIP Template:

- Overview: new template, 3 goal areas: climate, literacy and math
- Allyson: wants the SIP to be a touchstone for our work. Wants it to ground our work. Doesn't want it to be something we produce and hand in.
- Allyson: wants to share some of the things she put in her entry plan and see if they should be part of our SIP. They could be for consideration and they could be blended.
- Max: is access helping with a good outcome? We have kids who have access but still not good outcomes. We have to look at what else we need to do?
- Charu: not sure what our needs are?
- Laura: what kind of info. would be helpful?
- Charu: what outcomes are we measuring?
- Max: we have some assessment, MCAS BAS MOYA
- Deb: would it help to see other school's plans?
- Keith: not really because the schools are so different
- Grace: More comfortable than last year
- Grace: we could also look at what was done the year before
- Laura: wrapping up -- Allyson will share what she has and we'll look at it and we'll use that as a starting point and see
- Charu: would you be receptive to an additional meeting
- Allyson: ask if we could get extra time from Andrew

Principal's Update:

- Visitor badges: beyond drop off on and pick up, you have to wear a sticker.
- Locked door: the town wants to secure the buildings more so the doors are going to be locked after the end of the day.
- As our building gets bigger, we are moving towards badges. But we have to keep track of who's in the building...we are the 3rd school to do this.
- Feedback on doors: communicating this change needs to be done in as many ways as possible. Signs, emails, tweets...it would help for people to understand why there is

the change. Maybe if a group of parents could be at the doors to help explain to other parents

- Sharon Kiernan will join as a teacher representative at our October meeting.

Stars & Stairs:

- Grace: are these being announced in PTO newsletter and calendar
- Keith: liked the norms being announce
- Charu: agenda was posted at town how and to us
- Nira: scope at School Council can we talk about things other than the SIP