

School Council - Meeting Notes

Tuesday, 12/5/17

In attendance: Allyson Hart, Laura Horst, Dianne Muendel, Grace Fehrenbach, Keith Carson, Heather Hoganson, Sharon Kiernan, Nira Pollock, Charu Puri-Sharma

The council read and approved notes from November meeting.

School Improvement Plan

- Allyson explained that the SIP's culture goal has been reframed and the Literacy and Math goals were changed a bit as well. Nira asked for clarification and an example of a culture goal.
- Allyson mentioned the recent events at BHS and a podcast she is recommending along with additional resources for families to have and use at home when having courageous conversations. School Council has an important role in messaging around equity work and how to encourage families to have courageous conversations as well as enabling staff to be responsive to issues.
- Grace asked about the phrase *including families and caregivers*, and pointed out that families won't be designing the professional learning groups.
- Laura suggested that we get feedback from community about what issues and problems are top priority and staff will develop groups based on those. It was pointed out that many of the proposed groups address important issues already.
- Timeframe of SIP was discussed and Allyson noted that she spoke (her own courageous conversation!) to Andrew Bott about extending SIP to include Phase 1 - what we're working on presently.
- Allyson spoke about issues of inequity and bias, and that she will share an article about implicit biases and that several of the PLG groups address bias.
- PLG should be focused in 3 areas: high quality instruction, differentiation, and equity. Overarching issues of inequity and that's our problem of practice and there is room to figure out specifics. Recent data about MCAS shows that there is still an achievement gap with Black/Latino students and IEP students. Baker is the only school who has made progress in closing that gap.

Update on what we've done so far:

- We read over the 8 steps that Lawrence administration and staff have done so far. No questions about those.
- Allyson also pointed out courageous conversation resources and will send to Lawrence community via email.
- Allyson highlighted the equity work at Lawrence. Lawrence is the final K-8 school in the district to start a GSA/QSA this year.
- Allyson also highlighted Zoe Kern's work with the ADL and Vicki Lariccia's work with Young Scholars. Working towards goal of interrupting biases and racism.

Smoking/Vaping

- Grace brought up jewelry and vaping and how we should be addressing it.
- Allyson defined terms and has an article she wants to send it out to families.
- Keith said he has heard about smoking a lot.
- Allyson said principals have been talking about it too. It was asked if there was school based education for the kids? Not at this point. What is the school's message to kids who are smoking/vaping?
- Allyson said it's very hard to detect; school is trying to monitor bathroom and it's been tough.
- Question about sending out information to parents about vaping/smoking.
- Allyson said there has been significant pushback from parents even about bathroom passes.
- Nira suggested a school sponsored informational session. It was asked if that was more directed to parents of older children.
- Grace added that we should reiterate our safe, caring, just community and bring whole school back together so parents and caregivers feel like they are a team.
- Charu said she's attending a BPEN health summit on 12/14 on student health. Allyson said she could reference meeting to segue to letter about vaping and smoking.
- Nira suggested that Courageous Conversations should be an overriding theme for all of our work.

Reading/Editing School Improvement Plan

- Allyson pointed out that SIP is an extreme draft. Work in pairs or individually to read and make suggestions.
- Grace mentioned using the Habits of Mind to anchor our work and conversations.
- Grace also asked if we could continue to review the SIP and give it back to Allyson by Friday, 12/14. AH to send it to out electronically to the council's members/

Scooters

- Allyson brought up scooters in building and some students mishandle them or people have tripped over them. How can keep students riding scooters but have a rule about where to store them. If it was an outdoor storage space they would need locks.
- Agreed on email to staff to store in classrooms as a first step.