

School Council - Meeting Notes

1-9-18

In Attendance: Allyson Hart, Max Hunter, Grace Fehrenbach, Keith Carson, Heather Hoganson, Nira Pollack, Sharon Kiernan, Laura Horst

School Improvement Plan:

- No paper copy yet, but will be sent google doc when ready
- Phase one, six month marker to do some work
- Literacy Team will meet today to finalize the document
- Math and School Climate sections are mostly done
- Will be improved by the next school council meeting

Other Business

- Math Meeting NCTE guidelines will be discussed
- Literacy PD this week where we unpack high leverage moves
- PLC will begin soon. Mica Pollack, sister of Nira, has written books on racism. Nira bought books for professional groups.

Drafting a Letter Together about Communication to Caregivers

- L and A will craft an email with the support of School Council about how information is shared with the community
- References were made to a specific events where lack of communication and miscommunication was a problem
- MH suggested acknowledgement emails about specific events, where you share everything that can be shared
- SK suggested a discussion before the email goes out with teachers, referenced past practices, so teachers know what happened and know what they can say
- Discussion of when to send the email: waiting for an event to occur OR send it out proactively
- Discussion of what the email should include and what the tone should be : transparency, confidentiality, safety, trust and timeliness

- LH spoke about the difficulties of the job and the shifting demands of the community
- The assumption of good will has declined across town
- MH and SK have offered to draft the communication and share it with School Council
- Need to a focus on the positives, acknowledge what is going well, how passionate the teachers, how hard the administrators are working
- PTO will explore a medium that highlights the positives of the Lawrence community

Who to Contact for What -

- LH and AH are working on this resource for families
- Grace suggested a part where new staff are introduced

News/Updates:

- Funding has been approved for an interim VP, 6-8 (for remainder of the '17-'18 school year)
 - Communication to families and caregivers about this process, committee, interim post until June, potential for next year to have 2nd Vice Principal due to school size
 - Connect with the above matrix of who to contact for what??
- Vaping-no additional incidents, Lawrence sent out communication to the families
- Scooters-no one has tripped over any scooters in past month!
- PTO Meeting 7PM on 1/23/18-Nagmeh is organizing this event
- Parent/Caregiver Forums-PTO has helped to organize this in the past, restarting the Principal Forum slowly this spring and with a more consistent schedule for the '18-'19 school year, vision and direction of the school, communicate positive information, opportunity for Q & A

Next Meeting: February 6th-Deputy Superintendent, Nicole Gittens and PSB School Committee members will be attending

Stars & Stairs:

- Great to discuss challenges and how can we help, transparent conversations
- Max and Sharon offering to draft a letter to families & caregivers -a huge star!!
- Principal forum-specifically for transparent communication with families, to build trust
- Our stair-to help our principals deal with these issues and to improve the school, continue to be supportive of administrators, leveraging things that are already out there...ways that the School Council can continue to provide that assistance