

School Council Meeting  
March 23, 2023

Meeting commenced at 4:34 pm

1) School Improvement Plan

a) Educational Goals

*The overall goal is to improve academic performance for all students.*

1. **Math** The big push next year is the changing of the curriculum for grades K-8.
2. The materials, professional development, a diagnostic tool for the high school for intervention and staffing for intervention are all part of the cost of this goal.
3. It looks like the school will go with iReady, which has a digital diagnostic tool included with it.
4. An AP PreCalculus course is going to be introduced next year. There is interest from students in taking this course.
  
5. **Science** Currently all sophomores will be going into Biology except for a few going into AP Biology.
6. Freshmen will do Intro Physics, except for a few who will do Biology.
7. Jamie gave a thorough explanation of all the goals in this department, including working towards getting grants to bring more hands-on science work into the classroom, more FITs involving science and connections at the high school between science and math.
8. She explained the differences between college prep and AP courses.
9. Angie said one of the challenges of FITs is that it's another class for which teachers would need to prep; a curriculum they can pick up and work with would be helpful.
10. Ann noted that the science goals seem very geared towards middle and high school. She's wondering if Level II can be more involved in the STEM initiatives.
11. Jamie said it can be done K-4. Intervention would be needed in the beginning so enrichment would need to happen later in the year. She noted that there is a need at the high school as well, to balance fun and intervention.
  
12. **Social Studies and History** The school has received three different grants; one for Civics, one for Financial Literacy, and a big one for Genocide education.
13. The school is piloting AP African American Studies next year. Since it is a pilot, it is hard to judge how colleges will view the exam scores.
14. Financial Literacy as a goal may not be needed anymore because it is being implemented.
15. Financial literacy is definitely popular with the students.
  
16. **World Languages** The World Language benchmarks are basically shifting from textbook learning to practical communication learning.

17. 20+ students are testing this year for the Seal of Biliteracy; some for languages other than French and Spanish. This includes students who are earning the seal with their own home language.
18. There will be professional development for teachers on how to prepare students for the goal of achieving the Seal.
19. Ann wanted to bring up the possibility of more world languages in the lower grades through FITs, clubs, etc. She thought ethnic cooking classes in FITs would be a way to introduce students to other languages.
20. Angie thinks that is a great idea and would be a good way to get parents involved; we have many bilingual parents.
  
21. **ELA** The school has a team of teachers who are part of a professional development grant, Lead for Literacy, which is writing a literacy plan for grades K-5
22. The school was just awarded a grant for \$57,000 for ELA materials, which requires that the materials be in the building by June.
23. It has been realized that the Title 1 program really can't stop in grade 4; catching up from pandemic learning deficits really needs to go up at least to grade 5. This will start in the fall. DIBELS will assess the needs.

#### b) Extracurricular Update

##### 1. YMCA Program and Transportation

- The Y program will move to the Y facility next year.
- Transportation issues still need to be addressed.
- It remains to be seen what this would look like.
- Angie has asked about the possibility of a late bus; there isn't a clear answer yet.
- A late bus that includes reimbursement is doable; a bus without reimbursement is not a possibility at this time.
- Ann asked if one afterschool bus to, say, Brockton is doable.
- Angie said that transportation provision must be equitable. If maybe three buses were able to drop off at several town libraries, that could possibly serve all the afterschool transportation needs of the families.
- Ann asked if parents would pick up from the school or the Y; Angie answered that the bus would transport students to the Y but would not bring students back to the school; pickup would be at the Y, given that parents pick up at different times.

#### c) Plan Moving Forward/Homework

1. Revamping the entire Handbook hasn't been done because of the time required to do it. One way to help with that is to put the most important points on the website.

2. Brittany Lofstrand, front desk long-term sub and parent, has told Angie that basic information in an easily accessible online format, would be helpful. Certain things aren't clearly spelled out in the Handbook, such as when students are expected to arrive at school and be in their homeroom, early pickup procedures, etc. Other similar things could be online, with links to answers.
3. Angie is planning on creating a "who do you go to for that?" tool. Parents have many questions and don't often know who the best person to go to is to get the answer. This could include things such as questions about the book their child is reading; how to get a transcript; who to talk to about discipline issues, etc.
4. Alisha thought the PA could ask parents what questions they would like to see listed. She suggested some kind of online form that people could go to, to put their questions in, to help in the creation of this tool.
5. Dee noted that the front desks and administrative assistants would be able to provide frequently asked questions they receive that could be added to this list

## 2) Budget Update

- Angie is in the process of meeting with the Assistant Principals and Curriculum Coordinators to see what items are being sought in terms of staffing, materials, etc.
- The big math change is a major curriculum budget piece for next year.
- Angie should have a better idea by the next meeting what our upcoming financial needs will be.
- The money coming in through tuition should be about the same as this year.
- Angie is trying to get a coordinator for extracurricular activities into the budget. This person would also be responsible for pursuing grants to help pay for these activities.
- Ann mentioned information she's been seeing that the school has been putting out to connect students with community service opportunities; Angie gave credit to Mary for getting these out to families.
- Mary in return put out a call to the PA to send her any opportunities they find for community service so she can publicize them.
- She also noted that community service is one of the things that could go on the questions list, as in, what is it, how do you get it, what counts, etc.

Next meeting is April 27th, the week after vacation.

Meeting concluded at 5:26 pm

Attendees:

Angie Pepin

Ann Mantil

Marco Pedulli

Mary Carter

Jamie Allen

Rowena Samuels  
Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst