

**School Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2017**

Meeting commenced at 3:43 p.m.

1) School Improvement Plan

• **Goal 1 Student Achievement**

1. Last meeting's assignment was to go over the SIP.
2. We need to evaluate how we did last year so we know how to improve this year.
3. We have PD to look at student work, but from what we know Levels I and II have done it but we are unsure if that was done on other levels.
4. We have started Google Docs, but we need to do a health and wellness curriculum; the one we have is more than 10 years old. Ellen is going to work on that. There was discussion about where in the SIP to put it and it was decided that it should be in Section 1. June felt it could also go in Climate and Culture.
5. We are still working on aligned math curriculum; it's supposed to be completed by this year but probably won't be done because it is a fluid document.
6. ELA says it will "continue" to be developed, where math and science say it will be done. The verbiage can be changed to reflect the fact that the curricula are always changing.
7. The new math sequence and textbook series has been accomplished so that can be removed.
8. Ted looked at other schools' SIPs so the Council could compare; he likes Lexington's.
9. June pointed out that we don't have a section in our SIP for ELL; Ted agreed that there should be one.
10. He suggested "Evaluate and implement ELL program K-12" and an activity would be "PD on writing language objectives for all teachers".
11. There is also supposed to be a PD delivered by Alicia Savage which would work on ELL recertification; Alicia teaches it.
12. An example of an ELL student issue Ted heard about was when one student said they didn't know that "argument" and "agreement" were different words.
13. June pointed out that building up vocabulary is very important; Ted feels some confusions are common and could be addressed consistently by teachers.
14. Many ELL students will not raise their hands to ask questions when they're confused. It depends on the class culture.
15. Ellen talked about how teachers can rephrase instructions to make them clear for students and also give them opportunities to ask questions if they don't understand.
16. New teacher training is now 4 times a year and we believe that is helpful.

- 2) Ted feels that the SIP is probably not the ideal place to put a section on maintaining the building. The SIP is to inform the Principals, who are not primarily involved with the running of the building.
  - Ellen suggested putting a statement into the SIP making both teachers and students more accountable for cleanliness and recycling in their classrooms. Ted noted that the whole “clean school” idea was in the SIP before but was removed.
  - Ellen pointed out that because recycling does not seem to be a priority to some of the faculty, the students don’t see it as a priority; Ted suggested she should add it in. The larger the school becomes, the bigger an issue it could end up being.
  
- 3) Parental disagreement has become problematic, according to Deirdre; the Council discussed it.
  - A big issue is the fact that many families are concerned that the growth of the school is causing the small-school culture to be lost with the larger numbers.
  - Although there is an Expansion Committee, it has not met this year.
  - Special Ed issues have also been a problem with parents; they are concerned with a lack of resources, primarily feeling that more students equal less resources.
  - Ted disagreed, feeling that the Special Ed aspect of the school continues to improve.
  - Deirdre feels that parents are seeing the normal imperfections of the school and expressing dissatisfaction; she feels that it could be a matter of unrealistic expectations.
  - She is seeing more families talking about leaving the school, in part due to the lack of ability for their children to have good friends from school because they don’t live near each other.
  - Ted wants very much to see every child in the school have a good, close friend in the school.
  - This is part of the reason why there is a push to have after-school activities so that students can do things together.
  - Ellen asked how we can get the message out to parents that we are working on improving our Special Ed resources; this is actually in the SIP.
  - She also said that short PD’s could be done during faculty meetings, noting that they are sometimes canceled due to there being no particular subject to discuss. She suggested that teachers who have gone to PD outside school could come back and present to other teachers.
  
- 4) It was agreed there are several new sections that are thought to be good to add to the SIP. They are: “Health and Wellness”, “ELL”, “Social Emotional help so every child can have a good friend in school”, “STEM/STEAM”, “Clean School Initiative (Revisited)”, “Short-Term teacher-led PD”, and possibly more.

Meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Attending:

June Fontaine  
Ellen Gray

Deirdre Hall  
Ted Hirsch