

School Council

Meeting

April 5, 2018

1. School Improvement Goals for FY19-Academic performance
 - Council reviewed draft copies of the new format SIP
 - New format allows for tracking of progress over the course of the school year
 - Putting the date a goal is realized is important for accountability; add expected dates to the Implementation section
 - The goals were reviewed by the Council
 - Wit & Wisdom was discussed, including experience with implementation; curriculum is based on texts not on basal readers, allowing for a great deal of teacher flexibility
 - Eureka math goes up to the 7th grade now; the curriculum is dense; teachers will spend time this summer working on modifying the modules to fit within the school year
 - Eureka has formative assessments that can be done online. This would be helpful for preparing for MCAS, which is the only test currently done online. This would also save teacher professional time as the system would grade the assessments for teachers.
 - A new social studies/history curriculum framework is in the process of being approved by the state; civics is now embedded in the curriculum and the 8th grade curriculum will be a full year of civics; new standards require a complete realignment of the curriculum, K-12
 - The perspectives of how to teach high school history were discussed.
 - The Council discussed the technology plan; it doesn't reflect our current staffing and resources
 - Most of our expansion grant is being spent on technology.
 - We have a Mimeo or a Smartboard in every class, and enough Macbooks, Chromebooks and iPads for teachers to use them whenever they need to.
 - Need a review of the technology exit standards for each level.
 - Discussion of whether students need instruction on how to use technology for testing.
 - Teachers need professional development to help them make optimal use of the available technology resources.

2. SIP-Communication goals
 - These goals were written at the last meeting
 - Review of plan to streamline the weekly Update, with links.
 - Putting the August mailing online as well as intents, applications, etc. is another goal, and is underway.
 - Suggestion of training for parents on technology to make it easier for them to fill out forms online.

- Keeping the website updated and putting current information on it regularly
- Content of new parent meetings to include school culture more than curriculum

3. Planning for increased family involvement

- The School Council should have at least two parents from each level, discussion of how to recruit more
- Need a community member who will attend on the Council
- There should be a process to replace members who leave, maybe as simple as notifying the PA chair
- Discussion of the importance of having the Council reflect the demographics of the school; this is included in the goals
- Discussion of the timing of Council meetings, as well as the ability to participate remotely. It's hard for parents to come to the meetings.
- Providing child care is important
- The Community Building Chair of the PA could be a resource for recruiting School Council members
- There needs to be a Parent Engagement Committee from the Council to create a Parent Engagement Plan; grade reps would be useful in this role.
- School safety - suggested as a goal in the SIP to address parent and student questions
- Our plans should be continually updated and communicated.
- There is a cultural difference between how people feel knowing, for instance, that there is always a police officer available within a minute of the school.
- A safety plan needs to include many ways to understand what it means for students to be safe.
- It's important for students to give input so we know what they need to feel safe.

4) Student and Family Handbook Revision

- Ran out of time, proposed new policies will be emailed to members prior to the next meeting to expedite the discussion

5) Additional items

- Kate said that if we are looking at school improvement we need to look at the project based model and how it is executed. She believes that it is an add-on and not an integrated part of the overall school program as it should be. Kate discussed her own experiences with inquiry-based learning and the experience of her child at SSCPS. She would like to add a goal around EOMs (Exhibitions of Mastery) and the project-based model and feels that this should be a major focus of school improvement.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55.

Attending:

Angie Pepin*

Joe Kay*

Nora Broderick*

Kai Schildmeier*

Cissy White*

Krista Cafourek*

June Fontaine*

Kate Doyle

Karen Boyle

Kerry Griffin