

School Council Meeting January 10, 2019

- Student Attendance
 - Problem
 - Comparing our attendance to our sending districts shows generally strong attendance for the aggregate
 - Some feel that tardies are actually a much bigger problem than absences.
 - Class attendance is an issue particularly at the high school; some students are at school but not in class--in the nurse's office, with a counselor, etc.
 - Students who take the bus are much more likely to be in school and on time.
 - Community violence and parental addiction issues are the most impactful on attendance according to a study Cissy found from 2017.
 - There are parents who simply cannot leave work on time to pick up students on half days which impacts attendance on those days.
 - Students who don't get breakfast at home and are late to school have an issue with being hungry until snack time unless the teacher allows them to eat breakfast while they start their work.
 - Possible solutions
 - Karen, Angie, Mary and Cissy brought in resources and comparisons dealing with attendance issues.
 - Sending out colorful, attention-grabbing fliers to parents about the importance of attendance can be somewhat effective according to research.
 - Mentors for families, non-monetary rewards and other ideas are incentives that can be used.
 - It's important we make sure we're correctly interpreting the school's attendance data.
 - Before and after school programs for students can help with absences and tardies.
 - Using high school students to tutor or help with homework after school is a possible solution to help with late pick-ups, although there can be issues with transportation and other things.
 - Plan moving forward
 - Increase transportation opportunities like carpooling and using small business transportation services.
 - The actual data we have on attendance needs to be broken down and analyzed.
 - We should include attendance issues in next year's SIP

- Mary suggested “Check and Connect” as a way to keep students accountable and feeling welcome and wanted at school. She has had positive experiences.
- We can look at which of our sending towns have our highest rates of absenteeism and look into a bus or other transportation to address that.
- How long a student has been at SSCPS can be a factor in absenteeism.
- We need to be more transparent about the fact that we don’t offer transportation, especially when people are applying.
- Small transportation companies could be a help, picking up kids.
- Laurie suggested separating high school and lower school for transportation needs (carpooling).
- Parents should probably be told that there is no extended homeroom period but that when their kids are late, they’re missing classroom instruction time. More communication about the schedule.
- We could offer after-school activities, which are more needed grades 5-8. High school students can take care of themselves, and K-4 has the Y program.
- We used to have many after-school activities but the interest or the teacher involvement lessened. Now we need to look at more options.

2. Plan for 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan Development

- Angie is going to create a skeleton for next year’s SIP, including attendance issues, parent engagement, etc. and would like the School Council members to come up with ideas of things that should go in it.

3. Parent Engagement Update

- There was no response at all to the article in the Update about parental involvement.
- Cissy would like to put information about parental involvement out at the meeting on vaping scheduled for January 29th.
- The Braintree Public Library has said the group could hold meetings there.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58

Attending:

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| Angie Pepin | Joe Kay |
| Mary Carter | Krista Cafourek |
| Karen Boyle | Heidi Aylward |
| Laurie Dannison | Natacha Julien |
| Cissy White | Geoff Peterson |