

School Council

Meeting

May 2, 2019

Meeting commenced at 3:33

A. 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan, Goal 2

How can we be more effective?

1. The small turnout for this meeting shows that we haven't really found the formula for getting parents more involved.
2. It was noted that parents might get more involved if they know they can bring their kids.
3. They also might be motivated by a sign, similar to the A-frame half-day signs placed to be viewable to the cars, letting them know about the meetings, in advance.
4. A lot of people probably don't know what School Council is.
5. There was agreement that the Back to School Picnic is a great opportunity to give out information to new families so they have more understanding of how to get involved in various activities, groups and events at the school.
6. It was suggested that having manned tables with information (and also with food) at the Picnic would be helpful and welcoming.
7. Kerry said that there shouldn't be a focus on selling at the picnic. It's not a fundraiser. That's not the purpose of the event.
8. If the picnic happened on a weeknight vs. a weekend, that would be helpful for getting more families to attend it. In previous years, kids weren't being picked up and the job of watching them was left to the teachers, giving them an extremely long day. Kerry said National Honor Society students could help with child care, or students looking to earn community service; this would be a good source of childcare if needed.
9. Online lunch ordering and payment is a necessity for next year.
10. Faculty and staff photos can be added to the website. [DONE]
11. Katie suggested that the "Important Dates" be put on the top of the Update, before the piece written by Angie or Alicia (and others who will be writing next year).
12. Kerry suggested emailed announcements, followed by reminders, be put out in advance so families know about upcoming events, i.e. athletic sign-ups, other deadline events.
13. International Food Night was a great success, bringing in about 300 people and located in a place that brought in families who hadn't been coming to events previously.
14. DESE parent engagement tool will be experimented with next year.
15. Geoff suggested that invitations to events for families be reworded. Some of the cultures in our school families believe that school and home events are separate and they don't see the need to attend school ones. If we phrase invitations to let them know that their input and attendance would be welcome and valuable, they may be more interested in coming.

16. Angie suggested the definition of parent involvement be amended so that families don't think that the only way they can be involved is by going to PA meetings or School Council meetings. There are many other ways for parents to be involved.

17. Kerry suggested guest speakers who would interest parents.

18. Katie said that the negativity around the expansion last year made new families feel unwelcome.

B. Goal 4 of the School Improvement Plan

1. Kerry felt that this goal would work better as two goals. the first two points becoming Goal 3 and the next three points remaining Goal 4.
2. Angie talked about student trauma and how it affects attendance and many other things. We are looking to get training for teachers so they know how to create safe environments for children who have experienced trauma.
3. Training for teachers on mental health first aid is available for free; Kerry has information about this.
4. We can't call the school resource officer goal "done" because it's up to the Norwell Police when that happens. We are however budgeting for one for next year.
5. Katie suggested CPR and First Aid training be mandatory for all teachers.
6. Angie can address lockdown drills at one of the quarterly coffees; there was discussion about whether it would be better to have it before or after the drill.
7. The difference between soft lockdowns or regular lockdowns should be made clear to parents.
8. It needs to be made clear which phone number parents have on the calling list so that they're sure to get the messages about lockdowns, snow days, etc.
9. Under safety issues, there have been some guest speakers addressing such things as vaping, bullying, etc.
10. There will be a health teacher next year.
11. The program we're using for substance abuse is more about making good choices, keeping the content age-appropriate.
12. Kerry feels that there should be an intentional noting of the Charter culture; this is important to avoid losing that culture.
13. Working with all new students to help them acclimate to the school proved too complicated, so next year, just doing 5th grade, the single largest group, could be helpful. There was a "New Student" FIT at the beginning of this year on Level III.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Attending:

Angie Pepin	Katie Vecchione
Linda Cook	Geoff Peterson
Kerry Griffin	Krista Cafourek

