

School Council Meeting October 4, 2018

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. What is School Council?

- Education Reform Act of 1993
 - Helped create charter schools
 - Enabled schools to be student-need-centered
- Purpose and Tasks
 - Spelled out in the handout "What are the main areas of responsibility for school councils?"

3. School Improvement Plan

- Angie explained the areas of the SIP.
 - One new section is a column which allows us to note if and when goals are accomplished.
 - We now have four Curriculum Coordinators to help with academics
- Last year we left off at School Council meetings discussing communication, in many areas.
 - School to Family - what we have done at this point:
 - Weekly Update has been streamlined.
 - Streamlined August mailing
 - Principal's coffees can start this year.
- Cissi likes the idea of having any level able to come to the coffees.
- Linda said that if a level-specific issue came up, that could precipitate a level meeting to address it.
- We did do new family meetings differently; not so much about curriculum but about the school and its culture.
- Lunch payments online are being looked into; the issue is that parents are charged a fee for using it. Kerry suggested looking into something called the BJ's Food Grant. Angie said we could possibly absorb it.
- A hybrid option may be better because some families may not have a credit card which would be required.
- Mary wanted to know if a system like this could be used for other things like athletic fees, field trip costs, prom, AP courses, etc.
- We do have a PayPal account; possibly this could be used.
- Angie will meet with Kristine to look into this
- Venmo? My School Bucks? Hybrid? Could PA help defer the cost with fundraisers?

- The new version of the Update is very much approved.
 - Alicia's emails to the families are appreciated.
 - Kerry suggested that some people used to the old format may not have found out about the new version and haven't seen it yet.
 - Everyone likes the pictures too.

Family Engagement

- Increase School Council parent attendance - well on the way.
 - The school would like two parents per level ideally.
- Suggestions about School Council report going to PA - Linda offered to take it.
- Kerry suggested parents be told that the meetings are open and parents don't need to commit to regular attendance but can come whenever they are able.
- The next PA meeting will be Wednesday, October 24 at 8:30 am. The location may not be set and using the school's music room could be a good choice if it's available.
- The PA has been trying to accommodate many parents by having meetings on different days, at different times and in different locations.
- AuJane suggested video conferencing if that would help; Kerry offered a cautionary warning about that.
- Angie suggested a "recap" meeting the day after, in order to get different parental feedback.
- We would like to create a parent engagement committee; this is part of the SIP and needs to start right away.
- Kerry pointed out that cross-level volunteering could be very good.
- Kerry, Linda, Landgie and Cissi volunteered to be on the Committee.
- Geoff suggested pod parents be asked to be on the Committee.
- This idea of a Committee representing every level, staff and parents, will be presented to the PA. A group of parents can then volunteer to reach out to bring in more parents to be involved and engaged.
- Angie would like the Committee from the School Council to meet at least once before the holidays.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55

Attending:

Angie Pepin
 Kerry Griffin
 Mary Carter
 Karen Boyle
 Derek Powers
 Geoff Peterson
 Joe Kay
 AuJane Stewart

Cissi White
Landgie Dubois
Linda Cook
Michelle Granara
Steve Clements