

# **School Council Meeting December 5, 2019**

Meeting commenced at 3:40

## 1) Attendance Policy Update

- Angie proposed adding an item to the part of the attendance policy that addresses permitted absences; this is a legal requirement and the Council voted to add it. It states:
- “Absences due to the impact of homelessness, placement in foster care, or mobility due to deployment or visitation with an active duty military family member” will be counted as permitted absences.

## 2) School Improvement Plan

### Fall Progress Monitoring

- Angie proposed that the Council start on goals 2 and 3
  - Goal 2, School to Family communication
    - We have successfully implemented the goal of having more lead article contributors to the Update each week.
    - This has been a success both for those writing by not having only the two points of view that have been writing, and for parents, who are getting more information from more sources.
    - We have not yet been able to implement the goal of having school lunches paid for online.
    - Angie will be finding out the status of this goal from the business office.
    - “My School Bucks” is an online program that allows parents to pay for school lunches as well as other things such as athletic fees, buying required equipment, etc.
    - The grade reps are still the same and communication with constituents through the PA is still the same.
    - Katie stated that a lot of the communication from the school isn’t listened to or read all the way through by parents.
    - Delaney asked if information could be sent via PlusPortals and by text.
    - Kerry said that the robo-call program might have a texting option.
    - Mary noted that Venmo and other electronic ways of paying are requested far more from students and parents to pay for school-related needs.
    - We are looking at completely replacing our communication tools.
    - We are in the early stages of looking for a new vendor.

- Google Classroom doesn't work well with our current system.
- Angie would like to have report cards go out electronically through the new system we will hopefully get.
- Angie will send an email about the next Principal's Coffee in an effort to increase attendance.
- The time for the Coffee was chosen based on room availability.
- The Faculty Directory needs a link on the front page of the website. Angie will connect with Rio on this.
- Katie has agreed to bring the minutes of the School Council meeting to the PA meeting.
- The Family Engagement section contains items that Cissy was working on last year.
- Kerry suggested a staff person probably should have been involved so that person could help any new volunteer to catch up.
- Angie suggested that the Council look at the DESE tool next meeting.
- Goal 3, Crisis planning
  - Crisis protocols shouldn't be completely shared with the public for confidentiality reasons.
  - Getting a school resource officer is a very complicated issue; Norwell has requested an inordinately high price to supply one.
  - Joe pointed out that a good resource officer who interacts with students is valuable.
  - Angie noted that making people feel safe is a large part of having a Resource Officer, more so than traffic control.
  - Katie suggested putting a fence up between the school property and the VNA parking lot. It was agreed that while this might help deter some parents (and teachers), there would still be ways found to get around it.
- Goal 3, School Attendance
  - Adjustment Counselor/504 Specialist Tanya Ames and Angie will be attending a meeting about trauma issues that affect attendance.
  - Making up snow days was discussed.
  - The length of the school year was discussed, with Kerry noting that the last four days of the year, no matter how long the year, would be unproductive time.
  - The repercussions of absences and tardies on students was discussed.
  - DJ believes that the school expansion really hurt the sense of community in the school and he would like to see more community building activities like the Senior retreat
  - Kerry suggested a cheaper alternative since the community building we now do (for seniors and freshmen) is very expensive.

- The sophomores and juniors have no traditional community building events.
- Angie suggested that when the freshmen and seniors are away on their events, something could be done here for the others.

Meeting ended at 4:30

Attending:

Angie Pepin

Delaney Alden

Daniel Faivre

Joanne Manning

Mary Carter

Karen Boyle

Caroline Boyle

Marybeth Samborski

Kerry Griffin

Katie Vecchione