

School Council

Meeting

February 6, 2020

Meeting commenced at 3:40

1. Change to National Honor Society criteria (vote)
 - There is a change in the GPA requirement.
 - It has been raised from 3.5 to 3.7, which is more in line with the national average.
 - Our Faculty Advisors have agreed with the change, as do Student Council members. Voted yes.

2. Student Opportunity Act
 - Because we are waiting for more information on this act, for which we need a plan to close the student achievement gap, this item could not be discussed yet. Our plan will be part of the annual report that we write over the summer. We will update on this point once the state shares the guidelines with us.

3. Massachusetts Family, School and Community Partnership Fundamentals
 - Feedback from analysis
 - Angie requested Council members give their feedback from the tool and previous discussions of it. The end goal is to develop goals for next year's school improvement plan.
 - Specifically, what we're doing well and where we need to improve.
 - One example she mentioned was moving the location of International Food Night from the PE space to a community hall in Randolph. This was very successful and resulted in a vastly increased attendance.
 - Mary noted that when families fill out the free and reduced application forms, it helps the school and can also give access to other forms of financial aid for qualified families, such as fee waivers.

- She said that the earlier families apply, the more barriers are broken down and the more opportunities are available to them.
- Karen pointed out that even if families don't qualify but fill out the forms anyway, it would help the school with such things as grants and other kinds of financing. Angie will check on this.
- Kerry pointed out that there are so many programs out there that can help families; we could send out a flyer with information so people can know how to apply.
- Karen noted that International Food Night is a strength for us, especially now that it's located in a much more suitable and convenient location.
- Marybeth pointed out that personal relationships are a strength and are often helpful in getting parents the assistance they need.
- Angie noted that mentors for new families is a good goal.
- Kerry pointed out that pod parents can be very useful in reaching out to families, but this requires an actual follow-through by teachers.
- Marybeth noted that meeting other parents can be random and hit-or-miss. She noted that other parents can at times be very unwelcoming; Melissa agreed that there can be an "us and them" mentality with parents who've been here a while.
- Kerry feels that positive people in the school community could be more proactive in being positive.
- Melissa noted that she was contacted by a parent in her own town when her son started at a regional high school and it was very helpful. Parents in the same town have information for new parents that they might not get elsewhere.
- To have pod parents be asked to make phone calls to new families is important; someone on staff with the school (i.e. Angie) can tell the teachers to ask their pod parents to make these calls.
- The high school has done quite a bit to meet the goals in this program.
- An example is that the school has taken away financial barriers to students taking college courses.

- We used to have a math night where we talked about how Eureka Math works and how parents can help their students. We haven't done this for a while but we could easily start doing it again. Parents being able to help their student with homework would be extremely beneficial and helping them be able to do that is a great goal.
- Kerry said there are ways for families to access the internet much more cheaply than what cable companies charge, and many don't know about it.
- Section 3B: Kerry believes that formative assessments are a great tool and strength of the school.
- Melissa noted that mentoring financially disadvantaged families could include many ways to help the families succeed and get into programs that could help them.
- We have data on volunteers and it could be a way to organize small, local events to bring members of the community together to encourage them, train them as parent leaders, etc.
- Angie noted that there are some funds available through grants that can be used as stipends to give to parents to serve as liaisons for those grants
- Delaney suggested localized potlucks as another means of bringing community members together.
- Lists of families by town would be helpful in organizing smaller town groups to get started.
- Mary would like to see towns send information about town scholarships to the school. She also pointed out that each town can send information about community service events. There could always be town overlap. This is information that could be very helpful to families and students.
- Steps moving forward
 - All of the above will be looked into. Angie will write draft goals using the discussed benchmarks

4. School Improvement Plan 2020-2021

The Council needs to look at things to put in next year's SIP.

Meeting ended at 4:20

Attending:

Angie Pepin

Joanne Manning

Marybeth Samborski

Delaney Alden

Daniel Faivre

Karen Boyle

Caroline Boyle

Kerry Griffin

Melissa Freitas

Mary Carter

Geoff Peterson

Linda Cook

Joe Kay