

School Council Meeting November 7, 2019

Meeting commenced at 3:40

- 1) Election of Co-Chair
 - Needs to be a parent, voted in by other parents
 - Kelly Gould was elected

- 2) Field trips
 - What's working?
 - Up until recently, the cost has usually been reasonable.
 - The school budgets one all-grade field trip (for transportation) per grade per year.
 - Other high schools often don't do field trips as much as SSCPS does.
 - The school pays for two community building trips a year, for freshmen and seniors.
 - What isn't working?
 - The cost of field trips can be a significant hardship to some families.
 - Time taken away from classes is an issue, especially in the high school
 - We don't have a fundraising protocol through the PA to raise funds to help with costs.
 - Field trip protocols
 - Linda asked how we choose bus companies; Angie explained that we try to go from cheapest to most expensive in regards to what company we try to get.
 - There may be some companies that give grants for transportation if we apply.
 - Geoff suggested limiting the grade field trips to one every two years, save the money and buy buses.
 - Bringing field trips to the school is a much cheaper alternative.
 - Angie would like the Council members to come up with ideas on whether or not to drop certain field trips, and how to get them paid for.
 - Linda suggested letting families know about expensive field trips well before the date so that they would have time to put the money aside instead of being asked to come up with a large amount of money with two weeks' notice or less.

- The school is working on a grid of field trips that could be sent out to prepare the families for the expense.
- Letting families pay in installments is another option.
- In-school fundraising, i.e. pajama days, etc. could be used to raise funds for field trips.
- We could consider asking the PA to do fundraisers.
- Delaney asked how it would work to do fundraisers for specific classes/projects/workshops vs. for the whole school.
- Geoff suggested having a pajama day every month to raise field trip money. The Council liked the idea!
- Mary pointed out that high school field trips tend to be heavily leaning towards ELA; it would be good to look into more equity with other subjects.
- Field trips that involve students going someplace they wouldn't normally go, i.e. the Boston Symphony Orchestra, are valuable and desirable.
- Christine suggested a survey to see what kind of field trips families would like to have their children go on; Angie suggested adding a few questions to the parent survey.
- The police department and firehouse were suggested as field trips, but again, the transportation cost is the issue.
- Fire fighters coming to the school with apparatus etc. could be very popular with the younger students especially, and is free.

Meeting ended at 4:27

Attending:

Angie Pepin

Delaney Alden

Kelly Gould

Christina Centrella

Joanne Manning

Erica Perry

Mary Carter

Geoff Peterson

Karen Boyle

Caroline Boyle

Derek Powers

Linda Cook

Marybeth Samborski

Krista Cafourek