

School Council Meeting January 7, 2021

1) Welcome and Introductions

- Members introduced:
 - Angie Pepin
 - Carla Lopez-Codio
 - Mary Carter
 - Joe Kay
 - Geoff Peterson
 - Joanne Della Barba
 - Faith Oji
 - Natacha Julien
 - Krista Cafourek
 - Alicia Savage
 - Karen Boyle
 - Caroline Boyle

- Angie explained the purpose of School Council
 - A group of parents, teachers, students and community members who come together to work on issues with the school Principal.
 - One job is to work on the Student Handbook
 - The other is to work on the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - There should be a parent co-chair for the Council, so Angie is hoping for a volunteer for that position.

- Angie provided a link in the online agenda to the SIP
 - Last year plans were made for this year, which of course wasn't fully completed.
 - Angie explained how the SIP is organized and explained briefly what the different subject areas are.
 - The technology aspect has been in the forefront and Angie hopes that we can work on other aspects that were necessarily pushed back, in order to begin work on next year's SIP.
 - Family engagement is a goal that has been worked on for some time.
 - A lot of progress has been made in this area; for example, streamlining the weekly Update.

- There has been a greater diversity in family involvement since we've gone to virtual meetings.
 - Natacha suggested that when things go back to "normal", it might be a good idea to offer virtual involvement as well as in-person to keep people involved.
 - Angie mentioned that parent-teacher conferences in a few weeks will be done virtually and this could lead to a lot of possibilities.
 - Mary has been using zoom meetings to talk with students as well as parents and has found that she hasn't lost a lot of involvement. She finds it easier to make students accountable and also would like to use social media in various forms to keep on top of invitations, events, information, etc.
 - Angie mentioned that with the uncertainty of the times, it would make sense to plan for various scenarios next year instead of assuming any one thing would be expected. "If this, then that".
- Angie brought up Goal 3: Fostering a safe, welcoming school culture.
 - There are a fair number of new families who are fully remote and have never been inside the buildings, so that demographic needs to be taken into account for next year when working with other new families.
- The DESE has revised the "Massachusetts Family, School and Community Partnership Fundamentals". They've divided it into important sections. Angie would like to see the Council members read it over and offer insights and comments.
- We should have our new SIP ready to submit for approval by June. Angie would like to meet again in February to discuss the goals we would like to address or amend, particularly in the pandemic and post-pandemic world.
- Angie suggested a Google doc for the remaining meetings, where commentary can be put. She will put out to the Council members a document that will provide the members with information they can see and respond to. Angie will invite the Curriculum Coordinators to the February meeting for their input on issues that may need to be addressed in the SIP.