

School Council Meeting

March 4, 2021

Meeting started at 4:15 pm

1. School Improvement Plan development, Goals 2 & 3
2. Goal 1 updates
 - Regarding Social Studies and History, having a financial literacy fair has been discussed. We have received a grant for seniors to have one; a virtual fair is being planned for the end of the year. Juniors will be included, and we are applying for a grant for next year when the fair will hopefully be in person.
 - Only 2 students are interested in AP Spanish, so we will put it off until next year. Those two students will have the opportunity to participate in something on their own.
3. Goal 2
 - Improved communication with all stakeholders is an ongoing goal
 - We've done a lot of work on this goal over the last few years
 - We have school to family communication goals; one is "Implement online lunch payments". This is something we have, but all lunch is free this year so we haven't used it yet.
 - Principal's Coffees didn't happen this year due to Covid, but Angie would like to do some in April, May and June, virtually. Doing these meetings online could very well have a positive impact on attendance.
 - The PA has had virtual meetings this year and attendance has improved a bit; they've had about 15 parents showing up for them; Joanne keeps a list of attendees.
 - The PA has talked a little about keeping the meetings virtual since the attendance tends to be better when parents don't have to go home and then go back out again.
 - Angie noted that parent-teacher conferences went very well as virtual. Seeing all the teachers at once has been very positive and the response was strong.
 - Joanne finds virtual meetings work very well.
 - On the other hand, Angie thought the virtual Enrollment Open Houses didn't work well at all. It's just not the same trying to do them online; next year she'd like to see them in person again.

- Mary also felt that it wouldn't be a good idea to have virtual Financial Aid Workshops for high school. They're too interactive to work well online.
- There have been an enormous amount of emails to both parents and teachers and it makes it very difficult for everyone to keep track of all the information.
- Faith acknowledged she doesn't always look at her emails and thinks information coming through social media would be better.
- Angie and Mary agreed that for high school students, shutting off notifications and organizing their communications would be very helpful because they're overwhelmed.
- Readership of the Update is still not great
- Google Classroom training for parents is something that we had talked about but didn't happen. Angie would like to see it happen for next year; it's clearly very important.

4. Family Engagement

- Creating connections at the town and community level is an ongoing goal which, as with other goals this year, has been pushed back due to the pandemic.
- Angie read from the SIP what the current, ongoing directives are for this goal. She asked what kind of effects COVID has had on family engagement.
- Alisha talked about revising the bylaws to reflect the need to address both people in the room for meetings as well as the remote attendees. Angie agreed and noted that this is exactly the problem teachers deal with in hybrid classrooms.
- More diversity with family engagement should be both by town and grade. K and 1 meetings were well attended, other ones not so much.
- Push next year for an involved SEPAC and ELPAC
- SEPAC is parents helping parents; Joanne feels it's very important and would attend more meetings if meetings were virtual.

5. Goal 3

- Covid has had a huge impact on school culture and social well-being, especially at the high school and Level 4.
- Joe is looking for ideas to improve morale, which has suffered greatly through the pandemic and is very much needed at the high school.
- Angie is adding Community Building to Goal 3
- Mary pointed out that it's hard to plan anything concrete for next year, not knowing what the school environment will look like.

- Angie and Mary agreed it would be a good thing to plan grade-level specific events early in the year.
- Mary has a high school community event planned (an online trivia night for students and faculty, virtually) for community building.
- At the high school the other day there was an alumni speaker, which drew 17 students, and Angie has another one available.
- A zoom meet-the-alumni next year would hopefully be better attended since there would be less burnout from continuous screen time.
- We have new families to welcome; about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the new students are siblings, so not new. Angie wants to hold meetings for them soon. She'd like ideas from the Council on how we can do shadow days for new students.
- Joanne believes tours or shadowing is very important, especially for kindergarteners since it's all so new for them.
- Angie would like to do a K-2 meeting and a high school meeting since those are where the largest amount of new students are. These could be in June. The meetings would need to be virtual but tours could happen at the end of the day with just a few families at a time.
- Angie wants to take the 8th graders to the high school since it's going to be a very new experience for them. Small groups taken to the high school at the end of the day to tour the high school could work; Mary liked that idea.
- Mary would like to see 8th graders have virtual meetings with high school teachers they'll have as freshmen next year. Angie would like these meetings to also result in gaining information about student interests that would result in less guesswork about their schedules next year.

6. Restorative practices have not been addressed much due to the circumstances of Covid. Angie would like to RE-establish regular peace circles grades 5-12. Included in the implementation would be helping everyone understand what restorative practices actually are.

- The Access and Resource page Angie anticipated making was not created as such; she hopes to make that happen.

- ★ Addressing School Culture as a goal is huge.
- ★ Remediation for learning gaps will also be a very important goal.
- ★ Angie will create a more polished version of the SIP that can be looked over before the next meeting and voted on.

7. The rest of this year:

- Budget: Going over the school budget for next year is part of the School Council responsibilities; it most likely won't be ready for perusal for at least another month.
- Student Handbook - Angie would like any thoughts about potential changes to the Handbook should be brought to the next meeting.
- Changes to the Handbook need to be voted on by the Council. Joe and Krista will get input from their levels.

★ At the next meeting we should know more from the Governor about the school reopening.

Next meeting: April 1, 2021

Meeting ended at 5:05 pm

Attending:

Angie Pepin

Mary Carter

Faith Oji

Joanne Della Barba

Carla Lopez-Codio

Joe Kay

Alisha Uhlenbrock

Karen Boyle

Caroline Boyle