

School Council Meeting January 13, 2022

Meeting commenced at 4:34 pm

1) COVID-19 Update

- There have been a very high number of both teachers and students out due to Covid.
- Angie welcomes any suggestions or thoughts about the staffing issue.
- This week has been better than the previous two weeks.

2) School Improvement Plan

- Marco commented that looking at the Goals with fresh eyes is helpful; Angie agreed.
- Ann commented on the connection between the issues currently being experienced and the academics.
- She feels the younger students especially aren't playing games or engaging in other fun activities and is hoping there can be more interactive aspects to the curriculum itself. She enjoyed Craft Day and would like to see more positive experiences engaging students with one another in academics. Her own kids are bored by the lack of liveliness and activities in math in particular.
- Rowena feels that now that we are in person, she would like to see homework come back to its previous level in all grades. She understands that it was stopped during remote classes due to not wanting to give too much screen time for students.
- Angie agreed that there was some skipping of modules (as instructed by the DESE) and there is some catching up to do.
- Krista looked at the gaps in 5th grade, for instance, multiplying fractions. Sixth graders were supposed to learn dividing fractions but needed to redo fifth grade multiplying fractions.
- She also added that math is possibly the trickiest subject due to the type of lessons they include. We are now seeing students who've missed weeks and weeks of school due to covid and not getting the needed instruction.
- Angie said that she needs to talk to Donika, our math curriculum coordinator; missing these modules means the students won't get to some of their current modules. The math team is planning for this, but it is a problem that will impact learning for several years to come.
- These are conversations happening in curriculum meetings this year.
- Ray said she's noticing similar problems with her freshmen, but she's also seeing it in juniors; there's a deficit.

- Angie said we've already seen an improvement in the catching up of ELA learning due to additional staff and interventions; we can take these lessons learned and apply them to math.
- Marco is seeing ELL students struggle with reading. Trying to explain difficult concepts to the students is challenging. Science is hard enough, but these students struggle more. He would like to see interventions in this area.
- Ray has had to work more with reading comprehension for these students since they have difficulty following the concepts.
- Marco emailed Laurie Hogan, asking why certain students were taken off their ELL help because he sees them struggling. There is a progress monitoring system in place for students who are former English language learners.
- Angie asked for thoughts on implementing relationship skills with students as part of improving the socioemotional needs due to the impact of remote teaching as a goal..
- Ray noted that students who had no friends last year seem to have more this year and sees clubs and other groups as being a big help in this area.
- Middle school students would benefit from clubs and groups as well.
- Krista would like to see a "Kindness Squad" in middle school.
- Reegan has done these kinds of things too and would love to participate.
- Transportation doesn't have to be an issue if clubs could meet during an extended lunch period.
- Anne would like to see theater groups that students, even little ones, can participate in.
- Angie mentioned some theater groups that do exist and could possibly help with this goal.
- Ann Mantil thinks links between older and younger students can do a lot of good; right now it's probably not possible due to covid concerns.
- Angie said in the past we have had mentoring between high school and younger students and we do some reading buddies now. She said these goals can be put into the School Improvement Plan.
- Ray remembered being reading buddies when she was in Level I and how fun it was.
- Ann noted that there was conversation last year about conflicts regarding racism and bias.
- Krista noted that this was the focus of the quarter 2 advisory this year.
- Ann was pleased about the middle school doing this, but wants to see more of this in the lower levels.
- Angie said there will be no Open Circle next year as this program was discontinued, so they're looking into adopting a new curriculum on this topic.

- Ray says her GSA students are concerned about the language used by middle school students. They've expressed concern about this issue and would like to address the middle school about using insensitive language.
- Angie says we have done this in the past, stopped due to covid, and we could start it again.
- Reegan has addressed the idea that some students are repeating terminology they've heard without realizing how hurtful it can be.
- Ray's students would also like to address the issue with teachers.
- Angie said there has been PD for K-8 teachers they would like to use, but we're running out of time for PD. February PD is going to be about dealing with trauma.
- Alisha would like to see parents more involved with this subject and more resources for parents.
- Marco has seen students using insensitive comments, being influenced by the home environment, social media etc. He believes there needs to be some instruction about not repeating the things they hear, and why.
- Angie is going to talk to the curriculum coordinators and other admins to get feedback on these issues.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20

Attendees:

Marco Pedulli

Rowena Samuels

Reegan Whipple

Angie Pepin

Alisha Uhlenbrock-Furst

Joe Kay

Krista Cafourek

Anne

Ann Mantil

Ray Ciambriello

Jordan Alexandre

Helen Li

Liz Sweeney