

School Council Meeting
April 28, 2022

Meeting commenced at 4:37 pm

1) School Improvement Plan

- a) Angie explained what the Council would be discussing at this meeting.
- b) She asked if there was anything the Council members wanted to bring up regarding the SIP that they would like to discuss.
- c) Krista and Donika agreed that the math curricula for the school K-7 (or 8) needs to be looked at again and some options analyzed.
- d) Eureka is a math curriculum that has been found to be dry, wordy
- e) Ann believes the research should begin in summer instead of waiting until September; there is a short list of curricula which are good places to start.
- f) Rachel noted that much of the SIP's mentions of social emotional support seem to be far more for grades K-8 than high school and she was wondering if there is more support available to high school students.
- g) Angie noted that some of the SEL curricula she's looking at for K-8 does have a high school component she could look into.
- h) Helen was interested in the MARC training and wanted to know more about it; Angie explained.
- i) Marco would like to see more speakers at the high school to talk about social emotional issues. He felt that the last speaker (virtual) was well received by the students.
- j) Rachel felt there was mixed feedback from the students about the last speaker.
- k) Rachel, Rowena and Marco all agreed that having speakers in person rather than virtual works much better for students.
- l) Rowena wanted to point out that regarding changes being made with science curricula, there needs to be cross-curricular support in science and math since there is a large math component with physics particularly. Angie added this to the SIP.
- m) Rachel asked if the ELA curriculum should have general terminology to help new students understand the expectations coming into high school. There can be a lack of consistency in terms used by different teachers. She and Angie agreed that a meeting with middle school teachers would be helpful to bring consistency, especially for ELL students.
- n) Anne pointed out that the Multicultural section of the SIP has a point called "Grading" which probably needs to be fleshed out a bit; Angie will clarify this and bring the SIP to the Council next month for a beginning vote.

2) Student and Family Handbook 2022-2023

- a) Code of Conduct
 - i) A significant problem with the Handbook is that it's huge.
 - ii) Angie looked at how some other schools approach this problem.

- iii) Foxborough keeps their Code of Conduct and their Handbook separate; the Code of Conduct has three sections, for elementary, middle and high school. Their Code of Conduct section is more focused on corrective actions rather than infractions.
- iv) Abby Kelley Foster School has a separate Handbook for each level, but their high school version is over 90 pages long.
- v) Foxborough put all the information that they believe is particularly important for parents and students to read in a separate document.
- vi) Angie really wants formatting, length, sectioning, etc. to be looked at.
- vii) Anne would like to see the three different levels separated. She'd also like to see unique information that new parents coming in would need to know about, such as the car line. Angie said the school is looking into a regional transportation system, utilizing more buses.
- viii) Mary brought up an old communication system we used to use called "Charter Chat" which explained the unique things about SSCPS for new families.
- ix) The move of the high school to its own building was one of the reasons for having a united Handbook which includes all levels.
- x) Marco would like to see hyperlinks and cross-references in the Handbook to make it easier to navigate.
- xi) Ann agrees with the idea of different Handbooks for different levels, and a separate Code of Conduct.
- xii) Mary likes the idea of giving parents and students an idea of what kinds of consequences they may incur and what are examples. Rachel agrees.
- xiii) Rachel feels a list of corrective actions with bullet points would be much easier to read than large paragraphs.
- xiv) Reegan likes the idea of having a reference document about discipline issues rather than searching through the Handbook.
- xv) Angie is willing to work on a chart similar to the other schools' Handbooks which were viewed in the meeting.

b) Exit Standards

i) EOMs

- A) For the past two years we haven't paid close attention to the Exit Standards and let some things slide due to all the complications caused by Covid protocols.
- B) She would like to see to it that what the school does returns to what the Handbook says it does for Exit Standards.
- C) Anne likes the idea of two EOM's a year instead of the current one EOM.
- D) Angie said the number went down to one due to Covid. Teachers wanted to do one this year, and look at EOM's to see if changes should be made to the expectations.
- E) Krista said this had been discussed at meetings, and teachers agreed we need to go back to 2.

- F) She said the school wants to see an improvement in EOM's as they have been less strenuous recently and missing their main purposes. She wants to look at how the EOM's or something that looks like them are including academics.
- G) Ann said she was surprised that EOM's were mostly done at home, which brought up a question about equity. She believes doing the work in class makes the students more invested. She would like to see Level I EOM's happen more in school.
- H) Krista said that it's hard for the teachers to focus on helping students in a full classroom and they need individual help at home. She said that there has always been a concern about equity when some children don't get the support they need at home.
- I) She suggested that FIT time could possibly be used to support students who are working on EOMs but don't have enough support at home.
- J) Anne said this is something that the parents could possibly help with as a PA contribution.
- K) Angie noted that high school students used to come to 100 and help sixth grade students with their EOM's, but couldn't during Covid; she would like to see this kind of inter-student help return.

3) New Business

Angie would like to push the next (final) meeting back a week to allow more time to work on these ideas and clarifications. She would like it to be on May 19th. The Council agreed.

Meeting concluded at 5:20 pm

Attendees:

Angie Pepin
Reegan Whipple
Anne Bell
Krista Cafourek
Ann Mantil
Marco Pedulli
Mary Carter
Helen Li
Ann Mantil