

## School Council Meeting October 20, 2022

Meeting commenced at 4:31 pm

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- Membership
  - Angie is pleased to see two of the three student members in attendance
  - We currently have three parent members, two are teachers who are also parents
  - Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings, but voting can only be done by those who are actual members
- Process

### 2) What is School Council?

- Education Reform Act of 1993 - the reason School Council exists
- Responsibilities of School Councils -
  - Input of various stakeholders in the community
  - Identifying educational needs
  - Last year was largely about social emotional needs
  - Looks at budget
  - Works on School Improvement Plan
  - Any school that has a High School, looks at the Student Handbook
  - Last year the Council looked at making changes to the disciplinary section; no actual changes were made due to having three new Assistant Principals
  - The Council focused less on student-to-teacher ratios and class size and more on parent involvement, establishing tolerance and respect, and behavior issues
- School Council Q&A
- Parent Co-Chair
  - Runs meetings if Angie can't
  - Gives input into agendas for meetings
  - Shawn was offered and he accepted the position

### 3) School Improvement Plan

- Review
  - A lot of time was spent on this document last year
  - The first goal is focused on improvement of academic performance
  - Early literacy has been addressed; this has become a state-wide focus
  - SSCPS was awarded a grant to work on professional development, having meetings, and focusing on writing a literacy plan
  - Math - we are exploring a new curriculum. A committee has been formed to look into it.

- Math MCAS scores need improvement; the current math curriculum is an issue
- A teacher from each level is piloting new programs. A new program is very expensive.
- Angie is happy to share the materials for those who would like to see them
- Melissa, Kristen are involved in this
- New curriculum needs to compliment the social emotional goals we've worked on
- Progress to Date
  - Marco is very concerned about the math MCAS and grades, especially with black and minority students
  - Middle school is of particular concern
  - Collaboration between math and science is a particular issue
  - Jamie explained that it is just as important to do horizontal as vertical alignment
  - She discussed the various concerns and plans for all grades to improve math support for science, and the ways we are using grants and new courses/FITs to improve learning
  - The new physics course placement will be important for students who are interested in STEM
  - She also mentioned how we are trying to use new materials that meet the needs of diverse learners.
  - There is new legislation requiring genocide education; the school will be making sure we are meeting the requirements of that legislation.
  - The world language department is working on proficiency and is doing professional development for it.
  - Marco wants to know if the school will pay for online learning of other languages than what we teach, which is currently Spanish and, in the high school, French.
  - Angie noted that some languages are easier to learn online than others; previous attempts haven't been very successful
  - Jamie discussed the fact that VHS lessons are asynchronous and students struggled to keep up with the modules
  - Jamie is getting together a committee to work on Exhibitions of Mastery
  - Angie pointed out that the school has changed considerably from last year with all the Covid restrictions.
  - Hoping that the financial literacy fair will be in person this year.
  - Angie and Rio are working on getting K-4 parents able to receive report cards the same way grades 5-12 does currently
  - Last year we talked about goal 3 and dealing with student behavior, with trauma and big social emotional needs

- We purchased for grades K-8 a new social emotional curriculum
- Relationship building - more student interactions Multiculturalism is a goal; Sheina is working on this
- New students and families - Talk to Us Tuesdays will happen again
- The school would like to give opportunities for new students to come into the high school to get acclimated once they've been accepted
- Enrollment has been an ongoing challenge; how to follow up with students once they're accepted in March is an issue being looked into
- Restorative Practices
  - Angie looked at discipline practices and feels were doing more relationship building to improve the culture and take away distractions
  - She feels that there is a better atmosphere in the buildings; students are more engaged and excited, according to Shawn
  - Marco observed that it would be good to hear from students what they're needing; he's concerned about finding places where students can congregate once the weather gets colder.
  - Rowena asked about the timeline of possibly purchasing 700 and Angie discussed the idea of getting more students enrolled to help make that financially feasible. Angie believes that there's a lot of opportunities for giving more space for students, classes and more grades. She thinks the students have a better day when they can get outside for 10 minutes.
  - Angie read Helen's comment in the chat.
  - Members discussed the idea of expansion; Tochi and Kevwe are all for it!
- Plan Moving Forward/Homework
  - Angie requested that everyone look over the School Improvement Plan to see what we need to start talking about
  - Tochi would like to see an upperclassmen lunch and an underclassmen lunch.
  - Angie is going to talk to FASA to see if she can get more lower grade teachers, and also talk to the PA to get more parent participation.
  - She would also like to discuss what we can offer students by way of extracurricular activities.

- Marco asked about the timing of these meetings being a problem for parents who work 9-5 and other situations that make it hard for them to attend.
- Zoom meetings will continue since parents prefer it rather than meeting in person.

Meeting concluded at 5:25 pm

Attendees:

Angie Pepin

Mary Carter

Rowena Samuels

Tochi Anuonyemere

Kevwe Ogagan

Jamie Allen

Shawn Connors

Marco Pedulli

Helen Li