

Lawrence School
School Council
MINUTES
December 1, 2009

Members Present: Anu Advani, Monica Crowley, Kelly Hardebeck, Rachel Katzmann, Danielle Kent, Stephanie Leung, Joanna Lieberman, Rick Rogers, Kate Shea, Kate Silbaugh, Lora Smid.

Others Present: None

Incident Follow-up & Building Security

Rick thanked the parent representatives for being part of a parent leadership meeting scheduled the day following the November 10 incident involving a reported intruder in a second floor restroom. He also asked for any new feedback on the school's response. The main issue discussed was the buddy system in the younger grades. Some children don't like it because they want more privacy. Teachers are finding it disruptive. Rick will be surveying Gr.1 & 2 teachers to get their feedback about continuing.

Upcoming Report to School Committee Curriculum Subcommittee

Rick presented a brief overview of a presentation he will make to the Brookline School Committee during a Curriculum Subcommittee meeting on December 3. The purpose of the presentation is for the School Committee to learn about one aspect of a school's improvement plan. In addition, members of the Committee would like to get to know principals who are newer to Brookline. The presentation will focus on our goal to improve inclusion practices in order to address the achievement gap for students with special needs. Three strategies include developing ISSP's, partnering with Landmark School to learn best practices, and working with a new Inclusion Facilitator.

Subcommittee

Rick and Co-Chair Kate Silbaugh conferred about subcommittees and proposed one on vision and one on the safe, just and caring community goal. Members voiced interest in also forming a group focused on data work. Members were asked to choose a group.

<u>Data</u>	<u>Safe, Just & Caring</u>	<u>Vision</u>
Monica	Anu	Rick
Rachel	Kate Silbaugh	Kelly
Danielle	Lora	
Stephanie		
Joanna		
Kate Shea		

Subcommittees met for the second part of the meeting (see attached notes)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5 – 8:00 am

Lawrence School Council
Subcommittee Notes
12/1/09

Data Team Notes

Increasing amounts of analysis will be generated automatically from the MCAS data. Hence, number crunching that we may have done from scratch will now be provided to us. Our committee, therefore, would like to focus upon not only MCAS analysis, but analysis of data from school-generated assessments. Our group plans to start by analyzing what assessments we have in school, how the results are communicated, and what additional information we need about student achievement. (We may be able to obtain preliminary information already collected by Curriculum Coordinators.) We're attempting to answer the question: How can we best collect data about student achievement throughout their entire time at Lawrence and develop a system for filing and sharing it as students advance from grade to grade so that teachers can derive the most value from the data and best serve the student with appropriate instruction.

Vision Subcommittee Notes

- Conduct similar exercise done with School Council with the entire faculty (January 19) and with parents (February 9 PTO).
- Provide opportunity through the newsletter (and on-line drop box) for more parents to participate in articulating their vision of an idea school. Target date for newsletter will be last issue in January.
- Council members found it helpful to have context of two readings on vision. Rick and Kelly will research what resources might be available as on-line links.

Safe, Just & Caring Community Subcommittee Notes

1) General Ideas/Questions

- This is helpful for parents and teachers to work together, as the social issues “float” between home and school
- Question of following anti-bullying legislation, and how it will affect schools in MA
- Importance of ongoing dialogue and education/ information, as staff and families change?
- What resources already exist? What works? Doesn't work? What are staff members' experiences with social competency programs?
- How can we create a short document/ program that can be shared with all adults (parents, teachers, staff members on recess duty), so that all are on the same page?

2) Making lunch, recess, and unstructured times a positive place for all kids

- Parents often hear from their child about what happens during unstructured times- lunch, recess, hallway, etc.
- How can positive social interactions that occur carry over to these times? (and how problems occurring during lunch can carry over to school, home)
- Question of if lunch/ recess has changed since the style of supervision changed a few years ago?

3) Possibility of parent/ student education forums, especially during critical times of transition

- For example, as students enter 6th grade, frank talk and dialogue about the increasing influences of peer pressure/dangers of bullying, especially with regards to using technology.
- If more information were shared, parents would be better informed about this, and may also be more empowered to work together to de-escalate some of the issues/ pressures on student.
- Groups/forums may exist at Lincoln (Village 2016, each year has a forum, titled with the students' year of HS graduation), Pierce?

4) Service opportunities

- Along with the idea of creating common language and education, what about school-wide projects that give back to the community, and put our “caring in action”?
 - food drive?
 - coat drive?
 - circle garden? (bringing different groups together, selling some of the harvest, donating to charity)?