

*Lawrence School*  
**School Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**April 12, 2016**

**Members Present:** Kirsten Alper, Keith Carson, Suzanne Currle, Grace Fehrenbach, Laura Horst, Max Hunter, Florrie Ives, Dianne Muendel, Charu Puri-Sharma, Rick Rogers, Jin Suk

**Public Comment**

No members of the public present.

**Approval of the March 8, 2016 Minutes**

On a motion by Florrie Ives, seconded by Jin Suk, the minutes of the March 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Updates**

- **Warren Blair's Visit** (March 22 & 23): Warren had a positive and productive two days at Lawrence in March. He spent a half-day meeting with Rick & Laura, met with faculty and parents and visited every classroom to introduce himself to students. He made a positive first impression with all groups.
- **Faculty Meeting on Challenge Conversation:** The plan we developed in our last meeting may need to be put on hold until next fall. One of the remaining faculty meetings will now be devoted to hearing Ron Ritchhart's keynote, "Creating a Culture of Thinking."
- **School Council Reps Next Year:** Rick asked members whose terms are up to let him know if they are interested in serving another term. An announcement went out to parents this week inviting interested parents to apply through the PTO.

**Upcoming Events**

- **Jessica Ross, Making Thinking Visible Consultant – April 13:** Jessica will complete her fifth and final day working with small groups of faculty tomorrow. She spoke to the whole faculty one day and has done 4 days of job-embedded professional development with different study groups since December.
- **Ron Ritchhart Keynote on Creating Cultures of Thinking – April 14 - 2:45 pm:** We are thrilled that Ron will be able to address our faculty. He will also work with curriculum coordinators and ECS teachers earlier in the afternoon.
- **SIP Presentation to Curriculum Subcommittee – April 14:** Rick and Laura will be giving their annual presentation this week. We will highlight our work in Technology and Habits of Mind.
- **Superintendent's Forum @ Lawrence – April 28 8:00 am: Both** Interim Superintendent Joe Connelly and Incoming Superintendent Andrew Bott will be at Lawrence to meet with parents.

**School Improvement Plan Review & Update:** The council broke into pairs and each pair reviewed the action plan for one goal in our current school improvement plan. Pairs answered these questions:

- a) What do we know about our progress? How do we know it?
- b) What else do we need to find out about progress? Who will get this information?

c) What are ideas for next steps in the new plan?

We reconvened and each pair shared key areas of progress and possible next steps.

**Goal #1 Safe, Just, and Caring Community (Laura & Grace)**

- The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is firmly established at Lawrence and no longer needs to be in the SIP.
- Next Steps:
  - Reimagine and redefine the BPCC as a School Climate committee.
  - New committee would support teachers to frame a conversation around issues related to race.
  - Connect this work to our current goal and Habits of Mind work.

**Goal #2 Habits of Mind (Max & Charu)**

- We will have a better understanding of our progress after the faculty shares out in May and we review results of staff and parent surveys.
- Next Steps:
  - Make the work more concrete and visible for all. Increase parent awareness.
  - Consider identifying a habit of mind as a focus for each grade level

**Goal #3 Technology (Kirsten & Jin)**

- Improved access this year with influx of new equipment
- Next Steps
  - Use Technology Vision as a reference in making decisions about how to utilize technology.
  - Form a Technology Team with representation across the faculty to help identify needs, plan professional development and share promising practices. We are ready to go deeper.
  - Collect anecdotal narratives about how technology is being utilized in the classroom (faculty share out?)
  - Clarify expectations for technology use in each grade level to ensure a more balanced experience across classes.

**Goal #4 Literacy (Dianne & Florrie)**

- Positive work with new writing units this year – specialists and teachers together. Summer workshop for planning was helpful. Coaching model in Gr. 3 (co-teaching a unit in each room and planning as a team) was beneficial.
- Professional Development & Coaching
  - K-2 model of each grade working with a Literacy Specialist worked well.
  - Gr. 3-8 PD: 2 sessions Gr. 3-5 only, 2 sessions Gr. 3-8 together, 2 sessions with Gr. 6-8 only (combined with other schools).
- Next Steps:
  - Literacy Team will conduct school-based assessment and no longer use Literacy Collaborative's "Fidelity of Implementation" report
  - More information for parents about new writing units – perhaps a PTO meeting
  - Second writing unit for each grade level – summer workshop to support planning. PD next year –middle school will expand work with others schools (Heath, Runkle and Driscoll)

**Goal #5 Data** (Suzanne & Keith)

- Literacy and Math processes are well-established – using a common assessment, reviewing student progress twice a year and planning for differentiation.
- Next Steps:
  - Continue to find ways to make the process as efficient as possible. Some assessments are time intensive.
  - Identify ways to assess habits of mind, creative thinking, problem solving, and group collaboration.
  - Identify ways for grade level teams to share with each other.

**Remaining Meetings**

May 3  
May 31