

School Council Minutes Jan 8, 2019

Present: Monica Crowley, Florrie Ives, Heather Hoganson, Nira Pollock, Chris Diester, Maisha Rounds, Laura Koplow, Carolyn Mansfield, Rhodinne Wang, Peter Cipparone

One member of the public attended.

8:05-8:10

Public Comment

Restorative justice: yes, public informational meetings are still upcoming and are announced in the PTO newsletter. Staff will be trained but that timeline is still TBD.

Principal search: Teachers want to participate but meetings are scheduled outside of school hours so challenging for some to join, what to do? Ms. Crowley referred interested teachers/staff to the two building union reps, who serve as liaisons for scheduling teacher participation.

8:10-8:20

Principal update: Longterm sub placement process moving forward; one placed; additional conversations with candidates proceeding for other open positions.

Back-to-school after winter break always feels like a fresh start – teachers and administrators are looking forward to a long stretch of uninterrupted learning and routine.

8:20 Approval of minutes – minutes approved.

8:25 Working group time

8:50 Reconvene council, reporting back on ‘is your group close to action steps?’

Student handbook group:

- ü Reviewed current handbook, sorting content into keep/change/add/edit
- ü Next action step- execute edits
- ü Organizing around content areas

Note about sections pertaining to Code of Conduct/disciplinary policy/interventions: Casey Miller is running district-level review, revision of policies, and the School Committee will vote soon on changes. If changes are approved then roll-out to schools will be planned. Hold back Lawrence working group edits of those sections until we can align to the districtwide efforts.

Arrival and dismissal group:

- ü Defined our statement of purpose
- ü Continued to iterate on survey requirements
- ü Next action step is choosing a survey tool and drafting the survey

Question: Should we coordinate with other working groups who wish to survey the Lawrence community?

Yes, DICE group may also want to survey Lawrence families, let’s consolidate

DICE group:

Updates on initiatives:

- ü Quilt project K-2
- ü Lawrence Reads – Book club for 3-5

ü Received summary of professional learning group work

ü Mindfulness practice – 7th and 8th graders have this in their health curriculum, looking for ways to roll it out to younger grades and broader community. DICE is trialing a UMASS-based program.

Next action steps: DICE meeting in February, planned facilitated conversation on implicit bias

The DICE group is seeking more communication channels to families and staff; PTO will help coordinate to families; Ms. Crowley will support communication to staff.

9am adjourned.