

School Council Notes
March 2, 2021

Meeting Agenda: 8:05-8:55am: Virtual

Meeting date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

1. Greetings and Salutations
2. Public Comment (8:05-8:10am)

No public comment

3. Assign note taker

Mendie Welu took notes

4. Approval of previous meeting minutes. (January notes attached to email.)

Approved

5. COVID update-Nurses
 - **Monica provided updated for nurses**
 - **Pooled Covid testing available for student facing staff-Variou
dates throughout the month of March for staff**
 - **Opens up to students who opt in as well as staff by grades:**
 - **March 9-11: 9-12 grades and staff**
 - **March 16-18: 6-12 and staff**
 - **March 23-25: Pre-K-12 and staff**
 - **State providing testing through April**
6. RLA-Continued and new connections
 - **Guidance counselors offering lunch groups which include RLA
students, well received**
 - **Lawrence has created a school social page which includes a staff
page and school updates, also well received**
 - **Ms. Martinez, guidance for 6-8, is supporting the transition to HS
efforts, including RLA in these efforts**
7. Virtual Community Meetings
 - **Mr. Weinberger spearheading virtual community meetings, RLA
also included**
 - **K-2 was on March 3rd**
 - **March 10 is 3-5**
 - **March 11 is 6-8**
8. March PTO/Principal Forums (Round 4)
 - **Dates for the upcoming forums:**
 - **K-2 March 10**
 - **3-5 March 11**
 - **6-8 March 16**
 - **5th round of forums will be held in May**
9. Budget update from Monica
 - **The budget deficit for the upcoming school year has been as high
as \$8million**

- **A lot of work has been done since that study and the district is looking at a \$4million deficit**
 - **Principals have been tasked with looking at where they can make reductions in their schools and the impact it would have**
 - **Some things being considered:**
 - **Combining sections and teachers taking on more classes**
 - **Advisory and WIN may have to be eliminated but working hard to figure out how to keep them**
 - **Monica had intentionally restructured the teaching teams so they were clean and aligned so she doesn't want to have to mess with that structure**
10. **Return of First Grade and Preparing for Grades 2-5 and then 6-8**
- **Return of 1st grade has gone really well, some things to note:**
 - **Parents were so excited on Monday and the kids were thrilled**
 - **In K and 1st, the kids are 6ft apart and have lunch in their classrooms**
 - **School lunch being executed well, definitely a worry**
 - **Overall, district making headway in getting kids back**
 - **2-5 return to school March 29th has been approved by the School Committee, still working with union on negotiations for that return**
 - **Lawrence planning and thinking about roadblocks:**
 - **Shared staff between schools (World Language teachers) and scheduling them**
 - **For older grades, 4 & 5, conservatory is also a concern and will have to change in form as we know it., alternatively considering music theory**
 - **Lunch is hard because our cafeteria is small, so two grade levels can't be in the lunch room at the same time anymore and it's being used as storage right now**
 - **Monica looking at desk barriers for the classrooms and has asked for help from Karen and Matt of Panel 4 to come on March 9 to explore lunch options**
 - **Monica has asked to be a guinea pig school for lunch desk dividers**

Kirsten asked: What do the dividers look like

The dividers are thick plastic tri paneled barriers that sit on the desktop

Christina asked: How can we help teachers move to the top of the vaccination list for the state?

- **Happy to report since Tuesday teachers are now eligible to get vaccinated**
- **CVS you can schedule them now**

- **Rest of sites they can start scheduling on March 11**
- **Parent volunteers adopted teachers at Lawrence and were able to make 41 appts as of March 5th!**

Kevin asked: Are the tents an option for the spring?

The lunch barriers make take precedence over the tents as there is not enough in the budget for both

11. Share Climate and Culture Work: Professional Development by Staff for staff.

(This will be added to School Improvement Plan.)

- **Stipend provided for up to 8 staff, will create working groups to explore diversity and inclusion in the most comprehensive approach**
- **Moodie and Sanders leading grading for equity**
- **Equitable practices and inclusive learning communities and student voice and choice will be broken into three working groups led by the following staff:**
 - **VP Horst and Murphy**
 - **VP Tumley and McCormack**
 - **Porter and Mundel**
- **All staff kicking off working groups with same article by Hammond**
- **Paras also participating**
- **If adaptive change needs to happen then a long term vision and long term work need to be dedicated to the effort; therefore, staff meetings will be dedicated to this work for the rest of this year and all of next year**