

PTO / Family Leadership Council Meeting Notes - Monday 9/14 - 6:00 pm

Agenda:

1. Call to Order 6:00

Present: (21) Mark Speno, Brin Tucker, Rebecca Stamulis, Mandy Fray, Caitlin Barrows, Maureen Gallagher, Chrissy Howe, Amanda Wagner, Deb Schiller, Mo Hart, Shannon Kelly, Jaci Reynolds, Abdel Safir, Carrie Storm, Michelle, Jess Farquar, Abi Healey, Sharon Carlton Newton, Lucy Billings, Safir, Viv, Dawn Grobe, Rosie Wojcik, Dianne Clouet

2. Diversity/ Equity Committee Update - [Shannon Kelly presented](#)

GSS School committee based planning work based on WSESD school board Diversity and Equity commitment. A long term action plan is being developed. Highlights:

- Staff PD (equity in remote/hybrid learning)
- Publicizing and planning PD opportunities to all staff (in-school committee will focus on this)
- Hiring (social justice questions in interviews)
- Student Groups - affinity groups is one idea, social justice club → need to gauge interest level and who can facilitate.
 - Abi suggested that the Root Social Justice Center “Youth 4 Change” group with POC would be a good option to approach for mentoring/facilitating a group of POC children.
- Parent/Caregiver groups: **what is the best way to have parent involvement in diversity, equity and social justice work at the school level?**
 - Books, discussion groups, movies, etc are possible ideas.
 - Mark suggested surveys to generate feedback from our families.
 - Lucy asked about students/families who may not feel comfortable with the commitments that have been made at the school/district level. Discussion of finding age appropriate ways to bring the discussion to all students in classrooms.

3. Principal Update:

- Staff changes:
 - Becky Peloso (K-2 Sp.Ed) and Katie Kier (Sp.Ed STEP) have accepted jobs with the district. Kelsey Olderstein (Manwaring - 3rd GSS) and Rachel Foster (Guilford) have taken over these positions.
 - Pattie Cheslawski has moved to Sp.Ed para role
 - Deb Schiller has moved from 2nd grade para to office clerk
 - New paras: Mira (K) and Ruth (2nd)
- Start of School year: used summer to plan for 3 different school experiences (M/T hybrid, Th/F hybrid, fully remote). All 3 opening days have gone well. Working on keeping all three teams connected and supported as a staff.
 - GSS Safety COVID team was created at the school over the summer (weekly meetings) to prepare for safety protocols, navigation and routines. In-person going well so far. Tents on campus for outdoor learning. Plus...music mornings!

- Parent comments that things seem to be going well so far based on observed transitions. Positive feedback about home days for hybrid learners.
- Open to feedback and suggestions as we continue with the process.

4. **What supports are needed?**

- **Healthy Snack coordinator / Fruit & Veggie coordinator** - Christiana? Jaci will ask Rebecca M at work. Need help getting snacks to the school to get them ready to prep. Jess said she'd be happy to help shop for snacks. Sharon also said she could help out with things once we are underway with schedules. Rebecca could help with weekend shopping as well.
 - Maureen asked if there are notes on quantities that have been used over the past years that could be used as a guide. Mo can help with this. # of kids in each class (with feedback) help guide the shopping lists.
- Support and Understanding :)

5. **PTO School Year Initiatives**

- Suggestion to take it month by month
- Will need to discuss whether or not we will do Tulip Trot
- Wondering about virtual BINGO? 2 levels (faster paced / slower paced → different days) - as sign up community building event? Rebecca will head up the BINGO committee (2+ staff members would be great) - rebecca.stamulis@mass.gov
- School Sing - every Wednesday 9:30-10:00 - via zoom.
- Suggestion to do Remote Open House for our community - want it to include all 3 schools.