



Somerville Public Schools
West Somerville Neighborhood School

School Council Meeting Minutes

October 18th, 2017

5:00-6:30 PM

West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205

In attendance: Marissa Roque, Betsy Griffin, Gladys Pol, Erin Barnum, Jeremiah Jordan, Coleen Cunningham, Lisa Tatterson, Laura Beretsky, Kathleen Seward, Leslie Lartey, Lee-Anne King, Brenda Williams, Liz McDermid, John Barker, Waylin Wilson

1. Approve minutes from 9/13 (5)
2. Principal Update (5)
3. Recent Accomplishments Summary (5)
 - a. Laura-> Floor permits for each floor to have events. 3 grades per floor. Get together are a way to get people connected, and food makes things more fun. Room parents will talk and plan- any parents can help. Laura wants winter blues party with snow date. Seward added that the PTA is funding this.
 - b. Duhamel Grant last year-> buddy benches that were designed and created by students. Laura and Ms. Artavia submitted another grant for an art project this year. Laura would like to see the buddy benches used better- they are used mostly by the adults. The grants this year and last year both came from parent ideas on Facebook.
 - c. CPA application for the school yard. Leiran, Laura, and Seward wrote the initial grant. The fact that it was approved is huge for us, now parks and open spaces is taking the grant. The next round of the grant is in early December.
 - d. Raised crosswalk on Powder House Blvd.
 - e. Laura suggested that parents meet prior to the meeting to have items to bring to the meeting.
4. New Member Welcome and Orientation (15)
 - a. Council did introductions of names and roles. Guests also introduced themselves.
 - b. Co-Chair election
 - i. John Barker and Betsy Griffin elected as Tri-Chairs.
5. Staff Update (5)
 - a. Ms. Roque: School is off to a running start, and students have gotten their first progress report.
 - b. Mrs. Williams: K classes are really getting used to classroom routines etc.
 - c. Mrs. Griffin: Continuing with RC and morning meeting. It has been good to start the day with a reminder of rules and being kind. I have really noticed a change in

kids in calmness and eating and clearing trash. Kids are being mindful of taking care of each other.

- d. We have had a lot of successful Donors Choose funding campaigns.
6. Parent update (5)
 - a. Coleen Cunningham posted on Facebook pages to solicit parent feedback and ideas.
 - b. Is fruit charged for if you do not get a lunch?—Seward will follow up with lunch staff and kids.
 - c. Recycling in the cafeteria. Coleen will ask on websites, Seward will ask about East.
 - d. Who can we talk to about parking? Seward to follow-up with traffic and parking
 - e. A question about camera and door security-Seward said that it is about to be finished, new door system
 - f. A parent stated that her son said he will not sit on the benches and she wants more education at the school; a first grade parent said his kids say positive things about it. Maybe it can be discussed at morning meeting.
7. SFLC /PTA Liaison Update (5)
 - a. City hired a basic needs liaison to support the clothing pantry and there are now open hours.
 - b. Backpack program has started again. City can provide 300 families food for over the weekend. This is also a great volunteer opportunity. Lee-Anne can help people connect with that opportunity.
 - c. We have room parents for nearly the entire first floor.
 - d. Lee-Anne is completing directory room by room and sending it out to the room parents. It will then go out to the entire school (to people who have given permission)
 - e. PTA is excited to be funding field trips. Unfortunately the bus rate has gone up from \$375 for a 5 hour trip to \$500 for a 5 hour trip.
 - f. There were some questions about how fundraisers are selected.
 - g. Betsy Griffin shared an idea about hydrangeas for the 8th grade graduation.
 - h. Lisa Tatterson shared the idea of a food pantry for all---Lee Anne said that the city is looking at doing something like that city-wide.
 - i. The high school is always looking for prom dresses. Also a need for men's suits.
8. Student Seat (5)
 - a. We will open up to two 8th grade students, and there will be an application process. It will open up this Friday to next Thursday. It requires parental permission. We want to have student representation. It will also give something for younger students to aspire to.
 - b. Required to stay for 45 minutes, able to stay for entire meeting, building in a recess in agenda to allow student reps. to leave
9. School Improvement Plan (20)
 - a. Overview
 - b. Timeline for 2017-2018
10. 2017 MCAS Data Overview (20)
 - a. Lisa asked a question about Lexile levels and reading---look at Lexile on both ends. She pointed out that she has some high school students (at a high school in

another district) in advance science classes who are reading multiple grade levels below where they should be.

11. Motion to adjourn at 6:35

Next Meeting: November 15th, 5:00-6:30

Future Agenda items:

- Planning for 2018 parent survey (January 2018)
- Review SIP strategies and discuss next steps
- Review/discuss public google drive for summer work

West Somerville Neighborhood School Goals, 2016-2018

- By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, attendance at school events will reflect, within 5 percentage points, the demographic make-up of the school.
- At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percentage of families (a representative sample) who report that they are happy with their level of involvement in the school will increase by 10 percentage points as compared to the results of the 2015-2016 school year survey.
- At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the percentage of families (a representative sample) reporting that they have adequate information from school to support student learning at home will be improve by 10 percentage points as compared to the results of the 2015-2016 school year survey.
- At the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the make-up of parent boards will more closely reflect the demographic make-up of the school.
- By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, the composite performance indicator (CPI) gap between non-disabled and disabled peers will be reduced by at least 10 points in all tested areas.
- By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, WSNS students at all grade levels and in all sub-groups will have an SGP of 60 or higher.