



Somerville Public Schools
West Somerville Neighborhood School

School Council Meeting Minutes

November 15th, 2017

5:00-6:30 PM

West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205

In attendance: Kathleen Seward, Marissa Roque, Edrick Pacheco, Louise Caspiarello, Lisa Tatterson, Coleen Cunningham, Gladys Pol, Jeremiah Jordan, Betsy Griffin, Callie Wiser, Lee-Anne King, Kathleen Brewer, Brenda Williams, Wylin Wilson

1. Approve minutes from 10/18 (5)
 - a. Minutes approved with edits.
2. Principal Update (5)
 - a. Introduction of student representatives
 - b. We found out this week that we got a \$1,000 grant from Duhamel for the rock project
 - c. The fruit a la cart price is not for students, it is for adults.
 - d. New environmental lights with sensors have been installed in building
 - e. The faculty is working in cultural proficiency study groups on various topics as a part of their professional development this year.
 - f. STEAM Initiative- we have hosted 2 evening build events, and we have gotten a grant to do more. This includes technical support, and we are looking for a parent committee to take this work on.
 - g. Performance assessment work is still happening. Three teachers are in the pilot program this year, and we received a 10,000 grant to spread the work out to the entire staff at the summer planning institute-likely in June 2018.
3. Staff Update (5)
 - a. 1st floor: kids have gotten routines down and we have been modeling behavior. Now we are moving to more independence with expectations.
 - b. 2nd floor: 7th and 8th grade trips-google for 7th and courthouse for 8th grade
 - c. Report cards headed out at end of the week
 - d. Other trip- k apple picking and PK farm, 2nd grade going to velveteen rabbit play
4. Student Update (5)
 - a. Lulu introduced herself and her desire to make the community better
 - b. Edrick has been here since 1st grade and he wants to be a leader in the community
 - c. Kids are learning a lot and learning about architecture
5. Parent update (5)
 - a. Coleen did some research on recycling and found out that there is a current application for funding of school-based recycling programs in Somerville. This

city will find out if we get the funding in January. There is also a great state site- Green Team- where schools and classes can sign up.

- b. There was a question about the new cameras and entry system, and MRS. Seward explained that the project is wrapping up.
6. PTA Update
 - a. Fall fest went well, good attendance
 - b. Next weds is PJ day
 - c. We are trying to get lots of box tops in by March
 - d. Holiday wreaths are on sale right now and numbers are low, deadline is 11/20. We discussed having the option of buying a wreath for someone else like an elderly housing complex.
 - e. Election day bake sale made \$168 dollars, There was a discussion of how to increase this. Maybe kids could sell, or we could have a satellite location at the TAB building. Having older kids there could reassure parents that they are nice and make them feel comfortable having their younger children at school
 7. SFLC Liaison Update (5)
 - a. Launching talk, listen, learn campaign and literature will go home at potluck, and literature will go home, similar to morning meeting for families at home. Help families with prompts to get kids talking and parents listening.
 - b. Parent/teacher confs. on 11/30, 214 families have requested meetings. Many have signed up and school has reached out directly to parents. We will coordinate your meetings if you have multiple kids.
 - c. School will provide activities in the gym—this will be staffed by volunteers, Tufts students, and leaders of the pack. .
 - d. A parent suggested having childcare during back to school night. Lee Anne said that it is something we have already thought about and it can be difficult to find people, we are hoping that the community volunteers will be able to come in.
 - e. We have explored a babysitting course to have 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students certified.

Brief recess to dismiss student reps if they wish to leave

8. Planning for 2018 parent survey (January 2018)
 - a. Was there a character limit on open response?
 - b. For anything neutral or below, can we have a optional comment box open up or have an option for n/a----as a 6th option
 - c. Question about “My Child has been bullied a lot” re-word
 - i. Last 3 questions on page 7 move to q3
 - ii. Lee- anne asked about sharing results from other urban districts with survey
 - iii. Could you select multiple kids on survey?
 - iv. There is a big parent turn out at classroom 7/8 events

Next Meeting: December 6th, 5:00-6:30

Future Agenda items:

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.