



Somerville Public Schools

West Somerville Neighborhood School

177 Powder House Blvd

Somerville, MA 02144

School Council Meeting Minutes

December 6th, 2017

5:00-6:30 PM

West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205

In attendance: Kathleen Seward, Edrick Pacheco, Lisa Tatterson, Laura Beretsky, Betsy Griffin, Marissa Roque, Gladys Pol, Callie Wiser, Lee-Anne King, Kathleen Brewer, Brenda Williams, Leslie Lartey, Coleen Cunningham

1. Approve minutes from 11/15 (5)
 - a. Minutes approved
2. Principal Update (5)
 - a. Academic behaviors is the focus for this month---being present and ready for school, organizing materials and deadlines, studying and preparing etc.
 - b. Playground grant-completed, Arn Frantzen came to show it to me today. January 16th meeting of the CPA and it is important to have parents present. Location of meeting is TBA. A question was asked about if kids can write notes
 - c. Very successful conferences, kudos to Lee Ann- and staff members agree, 72% of families had one or more confs that night!
 - d. Full time reading teacher this year- really targeting 1st grade, and two more teachers going through Wilson certification.
 - e. Preparations for Winter concert starting—Jan 12th
 - f. Selling spiritwear for a 7th and 8th grade fundraiser
 - g. Planning to take 6th grade to Nature's classroom in fall 2018 and researching 8th grade trip to DC in spring of 2020
3. Staff Update (5)
 - a. 1st floor: SMILE and K doing a farm to table project, including literacy and field work. They have visited a farm and an apple orchard.
 - b. 2nd grade going to Velveteen Rabbit on 12/7
 - c. 1st grade had a parent event for Foundations
 - d. 8th grade just went to HS for orientation trip last week
 - e. Presentation on cyberbullying and sexting today for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
 - i. There was a mention of programs that teach kids about how to have media literacy, and the kids mentioned what they have learned in the library
 - ii. The students explained the new 8th grade library program where they are in groups working on different project for the year.
 - f. Marissa gave an update about the trip to the courthouse

- g. 3rd grade started swimming
 - h. 5th grade had explorer presentations
 - i. 4th and 5th grade are doing STOMP engineering with Tufts
4. Student Update (5)
- a. High school field trip, students learned about clubs and other aspects of high school. This included the exploratory program. The students learned that there are many classes available at the high school.
 - b. Flag football and volleyball both won the city-wide titles for intramurals.
5. Parent update (5)
- a. MIT Media lab is looking for people to do robot studies---Coleen can get more information.
 - b. Meetings were great- well planned and organized.
 - c. The childcare and leaders of the pack went well.
 - d. The wolf pack program has been great and Mr. Johnstin does a great job!
 - e. Complaints from kids about lack of time at lunch if they are in the end of the lunch line---sometimes it takes a long time to get 7th and 8th grade in. maybe 7th and 8th should alternate for lunch
6. PTA Update
- a. Wreath sales ended up at 108. This added the capacity for one bus
 - b. Cars 3 is the movie for movie night, this got a thumbs up from Edrick. It is 12/15 from 6-8
 - c. January 9th is the next PTA board meeting to go over January to June plans, 7:00 in the library. 4 board members are serving their last terms- so we need to recruit people to serve starting on the fall of 2019.
 - d. Gym night in January
 - e. Book Fair was a success
 - f. Western dance will be in March
7. SFLC Liaison Update (5)
- a. Open houses have been moved to December- they are next week, and we are short on volunteers. Please spread the work, we need people for tours.
 - b. Typically we do a drive in December. This year we are focused on basic needs, we are collecting gift cards from grocery stores, we are also doing a coat drive.
8. Finalize Planning for 2018 parent survey (January 2018)
Seward will send PDF to council for January
9. Discussion student engagement at WSNS
The council discussed strategies that WSNS uses to support student engagement.

- i. This was an agenda item sent by Lisa Tatterson. How does the school support students who are struggling with fitting in and being engaged at school.
- ii. Is there a way to survey last year's 9th grade to see how the transition went for them and have them identify how the transition went? This might be a good idea for the district to do.
- iii. There is a yearly meeting between departments to discuss readiness and gaps—it would be helpful to meet more but it is very beneficial to meet that one time.

Brief recess to dismiss student reps if they wish to leave

10. Review School Improvement Plan strategies and discuss next steps

11. Review/discuss public google drive for summer work

Next Meeting: January 24th. 2018, 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.