



**Somerville Public Schools**

West Somerville Neighborhood School

177 Powder House Blvd

Somerville, MA 02144

**School Council Meeting Minutes**

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

5:00-6:30 PM

West Somerville Neighborhood School, Room 205

In attendance: Jeremiah Jordan, Callie Wiser, Gladys Pol, Lee-Anne King, Kathleen Brewer, Coleen Cunningham, Louise Caspiarello, Kathleen Seward, Betsy Griffin, Lisa Tatterson, Laura Beretsky, Edrik Pacheco, Marissa Roque, Leslie Lartey

1. Approve minutes from 12/6(5)
  - a. Approved to be posted with edits
2. Principal Update (5)
  - a. Laura Beretsky has been appointed to serve out John's one year term
  - b. The CPA meeting was well attended by WSNS community members
3. Staff Update (5)
  - a. Busy winter- keeping kids focused while we need to be indoors more due to extreme cold
  - b. Mid-year assessing (STAR, DIBELS) is going on now
  - c. 7/8 teachers and students doing restorative justice circles, talking about improving culture for students
  - d. Health has also been going well in the middle grades

Student Update (5)

- e. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have been participating in restorative justice circles which has been helping improve the climate.
  - f. The course selection process has begun for 8<sup>th</sup> graders
  - g. There is an evening course selection night at the high school on January 31<sup>st</sup>.
4. Parent update (5)
  - a. Lights have not bene on the parking lot—which is a safety concern. Mrs. Seward asked that she be notified any time the lights are not on. The group discussed whether the lights could be put on a timer.
  - b. The CPA meeting was great
  - c. Question about K in the café---some parents report that food is uneaten—it may be during snack or lunch. Snack or lunch-can teachers give more guidance and support to ensure that students eat?
  - d. Is there a person to help parents with afterschool programs---both finding them and signing up for them? This is a part of Lee Anne's role.

5. SFLC Liaison Update (5)
  - a. In December we tried a new drive-food gift cards, 20-25 dollars per child, and we have a supply or Feb break.
  - b. SFLC looking to support immigration issues to provide support, counseling, and to spread accurate information.
  - c. Does nurse Liz need donations of feminine products?
6. PTA Update
  - a. Moustache day was a hit!
  - b. Gym night will be rescheduled
  - c. No PTA Dinner dance this year, March 16<sup>th</sup> Wizards are coming to town and having a game for the city—teachers and high school students will play and money raised will support scholarships---7pm-2 players and 2 alternates-Lartey, Artavia, Desrochers, Darrell
  - d. March 3rd is city-wide swim meet at Kennedy----all kids in SPS can participate
  - e. Western dance will be in March
  - f. Next spirit day is PJ day, 2/2/2018
7. Finalize Planning for 2018 parent survey (January 2018)
  - a. Still plan to launch survey in February
  - b. Typo to fix and edit introduction. Voted to approve survey
8. Brief recess to dismiss student reps if they wish to leave
9. School Improvement Plan Presentation
  - a. Stocktake-Mrs. Seward shared the update with the Council and received feedback on the information.
  - b. Mrs. Seward will send out an updated document prior to the next meeting.
  - c. We discussed the March 5<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting- 5 minutes to talk and then 20 minutes of questions. Written material needs to be submitted in advance (by February 19<sup>th</sup>)
10. Discussion of coffee hours
  - a. How can we schedule these to be productive and responsive to parent needs?
    - i. 8:15 might work
    - ii. 2:00? 5:30?
    - iii. Have a clear purpose---so parents know what it is about
    - iv. Outside coffee hour in spring
    - v. Classrooms host parents prior to concert? Like 2<sup>nd</sup> grade did last year.
    - vi. Can we increase activity of room parents?
    - vii. 1<sup>st</sup> floor is planning a pizza party

Next Meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.