

3/8/17 School Council Notes

3:05pm

Blake Dalton, DMS Principal
Caitlan Sheehan, DMS teacher
Argent Lojko, 7th grade student
Conor Perenick, 7th grade student
Siobhan Perenick, Parent
Greg Morris, parent
Jen Sullivan, parent
Jen Quinlan, parent

Call to Order/Acceptance of Minutes ✓

Recap of last meeting

Events: get more social for students planned
Team activities & meetings

Updates:

- *Holiday social - 7th and 8th grade spring fling (dance) for kids 3/9*
- *Basketball Game - well attended, great fun, lots of \$ raised*
- *Canobie Lake trip for 8th graders - Promotion (6/15); Program with DSU (6/16; recently graduated seniors speaking with kids to prep for HS, open conversations, "real" high school, tips for success, concerns); Following Monday (6/19) Canobie Trip*
- *Possible Whale Watch for seventh graders - sea sickness? Other ideas, field day, etc.*

Review Building Wide Council

- Monthly meetings with staff and admin; this year is first year
- Council tasked with looking at report cards
- Alden has standards based, MS traditional grades (A, B, etc)
- Comments on Report Card: teachers see 300+ comments to give students, try to weed out and evaluate verbiage; growth set vs. negative read
 - When parents look at a report card and see grade - what does it mean? Mastery of curriculum or what? Add extra rubrics and comments to help better understand the grades
 - How do you manage to blend mastery v moving on?

Review DMS Community Survey

- Bi-annual survey sent to community emailed to members to look over and talk about additions or adjustments as needed; School council will be involved in creating and adjusting questions
- Survey sent out this year once adjustments are made
- To be put out in DMS Newsletter and Email blast around April/May

Review School Budget

- Blake met with business office on 3/8; across the district cuts are being made
- Decrease in population; population of grades will decrease but class sizes may increase
- Numbers are right on the line with no new students; typically ten new kids per grade, if this holds true, we would be right at contractual amount
 - Budget crunched was teacher salary, each year salary takes a bigger percentage of budget with little retirees (2 versus 6-7 in the past)
 - Lease to own 1-1 initiative well worth it

Review Discipline

- No big discipline issues brewing
- Cafeteria: disrespectful behavior
 - Work details, clean up
- Consequences for actions