

Duxbury Middle School School Council Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2019

Attendance:

Sarah McGuire - DMS Principal
Caitlan Sheehan - Faculty
Deborah Burns - Faculty
Erika Clark - Faculty
Katherine Drain - Faculty
Kristen O'Connell - Parent
Lalitha Krishnan - Parent
Brent Watts - 8th Grade Student
Tiffany Strachan - 7th Grade Student

Introductions

- School councils mandated by the state to work collaboratively on goals & bound by open meeting law
- Agendas formed and posted at Town Hall for community at large
- Goal: Provide input on school improvement plan, budget, and handbook

Personnel Updates at DMS

- Four new staff members
 - 6th grade guidance
 - Social worker/school adjustment counselor
 - 8th grade English
 - Foreign language; teaches Mandarin and French
- New Assistant Principal
 - Jennalee Coyne; formerly of Wakefield Middle as AP and also middle school ELA teacher
- Open House tonight
 - Unveil new theme tonight; "Choose kind"
 - Community building theme to bring school together

School Improvement plan 2019-2020

- To be presented to the School Committee in a few weeks
- Check in this spring about how plan is going
- Informed by the new Strategic Plan and utilized four pillars included there (SEL Well-being, Advance Learning Opportunities, Program Expansion, Global Learning & Community Partnerships)
- SEL Well-Being
 - Embed SEL practices into curriculum to formalize a consistency of these SEL experiences

- Continue with PD and reflect changes within curriculum maps
- Make a point to share out success as well as needs to community to partner better (ie: common language, skills, content, etc that can be supported at home)
- Mentor program: research shows that when kids have at least on adult connection at school, their engagement/success increases; nearly every staff member in the building agreed to be a mentor
 - Volunteers will be paired with students to establish new relationships
 - Informal connections
 - In the process of identifying kids in need and pairing with staff members
 - This is opened to all staff (ie; instructional staff, custodial, etc)
- State has asked that districts are implementing these strategies and practices and deliberately link to curriculum
- Continuing with security update process in conjunction with DPD
- Advance Learning Opportunities for All Students
 - Digital Literacy Plan including PD to focus on effective technology integration that delves deeper into the SAMR model (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition)
 - State developed new standards
 - How to help students navigate the online world
 - DMS does a great job so far with large chunks, but working to fill in gaps and align with new state digital literacy standards
 - District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP) procedures which will include PD focused on tiered interventions
 - Make this manual accessible and user friendly
 - Provide students with interventions in order to put targeted support possible to match strategies with students need
 - Student Study Team to focus on data and strategies to support students
- Program Expansion
 - Schedule Committee to review new 2020 schedule to maximize student learning, prioritize intervention, and expand course offerings
 - Committee will meet throughout the year to inform intervention structure at secondary level starting fall of 2020
 - 8-block schedule, with 4-day rotation
 - This will allow for another block; this year will be devoted to deciding what we will do with that block and how intervention will work
 - Explore ways to expand STEAM programming
 - Last year we removed Geometry requirement and opened an opportunity for an additional elective including “Operation Exploration”; this is a hands on math, science, tech, personal finance, real-world, applicable math
 - STEM night for a spring celebration night
 - Simulation coming for 7th grade science classes about energy use
- Global Learning & Community Partnerships
 - Communication Goal to evaluate School to Home communication

- Improve weekly updates home via DMS Newsletter (MailChimp)
- Department Twitter pages to post regularly and highlight student work
- Leverage Schoology for more communication to provide students a more active voice in decision making
- Evaluate the efficacy of this communication via surveys to students and families
- Alignment of HSS Framework (new history standards)
 - New frameworks for 6-8
 - 8th grade civics project to be implemented this year
 - Curriculum maps will be updated to reflect these changes
- Explore local and global partnerships: so many opportunities to bring in community,
 - Goal is to keep pushing ourselves to make these connections to get kids to go beyond the walls of the classroom
 - Social studies will build on local partnerships
 - Science will partner with Energy Star for simulation
 - ELA will engage with young adult authors

Public Comment

Next Meeting: November 21