

School Council Meeting, January 11, 2018

1) **Call to Order**

Attendance: Jen Sullivan, Argent Lojko, Twyla Barrett

2) **Acceptance of Minutes - accepted.**

3) **School Discipline Update**

- Vaping update: The 8th graders know we are active in seeking it out and aware that it is going on. The bigger issue with vaping is that it doesn't have the same smell to it so it is hard to track and find. Staff is following up on leads. Searching lockers, bathrooms, and students.
- Vodka update: There was a rumor about drinking during the school day. There is no real truth behind the rumor.
- Coordinating efforts with the high school.
- School consequences: first offense- after school. Second offense: in-school suspension
- Guidance department takes care of the social emotional piece behind disciplinary issues and better decision making.

4) **School Improvement Plan**

1.1 Academic Recover: there was an online component that was not successful for students. Two years ago the students completed the online program in the building. There was slightly more success but still not much improvement. Last year we didn't use it at all and we sent these students to Marshfield. The students had to attend the Marshfield Summer School program in order to get credit to move into the next grade level. These students need more of a 1:1 program. Will not be going back to an online model. The most effective has been the Marshfield program.

1.2 Aiding in academic success: Letters to parents making them aware that their student has failed a term and the consequences if they fail another term. (ie. summer school programs)

1.3 Student recognition: National Latin Test- will be taken again this year. Through the language department students will be able to get a seal of dual literacy. There will be testing in March (after MCAS) with the opportunity to earn this seal that will be put on their HS transcript. Other options: American Math Exam, Geo- B for Social Studies.

1.4 Continue to define and enhance our PLC time as teachers. Working with cross-curricular teams.

2.1 Grade 7 is now taking health

2.2 Students can access more exploratory class: Blake spent time with Dr. Tim Farmer discussing how the middle school schedule is developed. A lot of how the middle school schedule is decided has to do with the classrooms that are available. Science rooms and music staff determine the schedule as well. The middle school bell schedule is then tied to the high school since staff is shared as well. Electives that are available to students: 6th- reading, writing 7th - geometry, critical reading 8th- health and industrial technology. Music and world language alternate days and go for a full year. Changes to electives are tied directly to the budget but it is being investigated.

3.1 PLCs - morphing into more cross curriculum opportunities for students as well.

3.2 Best practices for embedding study skills and helping students use technology to calendar upcoming quizzes/tests. 6th grade looking at new agendas to purchase with PTO. Students don't access calendar feature. There just needs to be more time spent working on this as teachers. More time spent educating the parents on how to access the calendar feature on schoology.

3.3 Time management- teachers are teaching study skills without explicitly telling the students.

4.1 Continue working with partnerships with the Senior Center. Present to the Senior Center. Cookies and Cribbage event with Math Club.

4.2 Patterns and trends: Training in Calm Classroom techniques and different exercises to give students a break during the day. For the last 4 or 5 years we have been using the state rubric. It is being revised and in its revision they have embedded the social emotional aspects of what is going on in a teachers classroom.

5) Adjourn

Jen- School Council survey showing a theme in communication, Jen thinks that the next principal coffee should be around communication and ways to streamline communication. Blake- There is work being done on the DPS Website. Also another system has been purchased for enrollment and health updates. The new platform that was purchased is better synced with Aspen. Blake will talk to Cheryl Lewis about the revamping and how a parents opinion could benefit the rebuild.

Next principals coffee is tentative for February 8th.