

**Duxbury Middle School School Council Meeting
Minutes November 27, 2018**

Attendance:

Sarah McGuire- DMS Principal
Julie Cook- Faculty
Kristen O'Connell- Parent
Jen Sullivan- Parent
Cara Clelland- Parent
Twyla Barrett - 8th Grade Student
Christine Sovik- Parent
Caroline Mullins - Faculty
Linda Moriarty- Community Member
Shira Limmer - Faculty
Brent Watts - 7th Grade Student

Welcome, Introductions

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from September

School Update

● **Events**

- Recently, 6th Grade Spooktacular in October. Good reviews from the parents and students. We are fortunate to have a very supportive PTO.
- Upcoming, 8th Grade Winter Solstice Social December 7th 4:30-6:30. Idea came out of the Principal's Advisory. Social will include various activities and snacks. Low ticket sales as of now. Suggestions made to improve participation (a ticket giveaway, promotion via Student Council, sell tickets at lunch, provide giveaways at the event, solicit more PR from students and parents).
- Upcoming, "Seussical" performed by the DMS Drama Club on December 7th after the social. Maybe combine ticket sales for a deal?
- Upcoming, DMS music concerts December 4th, 5th, and 6th.
- Upcoming, Evening Conference Night, November 29 from 6-8pm. Future discussion needed regarding whether the format is as effective as it could be. Do we need shorter time-slots allowing for more appointments?
- Recently, two 8th grade groups (26 students this past month) provided lunch service at Rosie's Place. Hope to continue this in the Spring as well.
- Recently, author April Prince met with the 6th graders to talk about story development.
- Ongoing, Strategic Planning Forums.

Budget Highlights

- Dr. Antonucci presented to the School Committee, to the Finance Committee, and he met with the Board of Selectmen. His presentation is available on the district's website. Dr. Antonucci is requesting a Level Service Budget with ongoing conversation about the

needs and funding that will be needed down the road to continue to meet the needs of the students and schools.

- Concern that it is just “level funding”. What does an override mean?
- Martha Dennison has a variety of suggestions for people to get involved www.getinformedandgetinvolved.com Support for writing emails to the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and School Committee. You can also join the “Parent Squad” and the PTO will continue to update you via email.
- Linda can also speak with those at the Senior Center who will want to have a voice in these decisions and support the schools.
- Class size is an issue. We had a reduction in Full Time Employees a few years ago. This led to bigger class sizes, limiting student options/electives/course availability. Sarah is trying to think creatively to alleviate those issues.
- Impact on teacher/student relationships.
- New families continue to move to town.
- Crowded rooms. Needing to order more furniture.
- Through the strategic planning questions, they found that our students report wanting more hands-on learning.
- Chrome Books vs. Macs that are getting old and expensive to repair/replace.

SEL Survey- This survey will measure students’ competencies in social emotional learning skills. The administrative team is going to focus on measuring four components in the Casel Wheel.

- Growth Mindset
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Emotional Regulation

They will use the results to find where we need to focus on further teaching of these skills. Discussion of the importance of Homerooms. Do students require that one point-person and “homebase”?

Next Meeting: February 28, 2019