

Duxbury Middle School School Council Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019

Attendance:

Linda Moriarty - Community Member
Sarah McGuire - DMS Principal
Shira Limmer - Faculty
Caitlan Sheehan - Faculty
Michael Wood - Parent
Brent Watts - 7th Grade Student
Christine Sovick - Parent
Twyla Barrett - 8th Grade Student
Cara Clelland - Parent

Review/Approve Meeting Minutes from November

School Update:

- **Course Selection:** season wrapping up; students are just about finished submitting request and schedules will start to be looked at
- **Hiring:**
 - 3 AP finalists toured the building this week; hopeful for next week announcement
 - Candidates for Guidance were interviewed; finalists in next week
- **Youth Risk Behavior Survey:**
 - Administered end of May
 - Last time sixth was included this time around 6th will not participate as YRBS does ask some bigger questions that perhaps not appropriate for that level; due to Panorama SEL survey, solid 6th grade data exists to back this decision
 - This data will inform programs
- **Panorama:**
 - Administer again this spring for more data to compare to first set of results
- **Events:**
 - Spring Fest event for all middle schoolers
 - Significantly supported by the PTO
 - Carnival type atmosphere for kids with food, activities, etc.
- **June 14 - Last Day:**
 - Quickly approaching
 - Only one snow day this year; provided for opportunity to try the “Blizzard Bag” pilot
 - Blizzard bag had high rate of completion
 - Collected feedback from teachers that provided information about streamlining process and reworking assignments
 - Still need to collect feedback from students and families

School Handbook Review:

- **Overall formatting updates necessary**
- **Hat Policy:** technically not in handbook/more a perceived rule; change would be an expectation shift; perhaps teacher discretion within the classroom
- **Schedule:** add iLab schedule to this section
- **Academic Recovery:** updates to language here
- **Integrity & School work:** clarity of language and more lengthy review about how explicit we can be including review of offenses; focus must be on learning
 - Language does not necessarily reflect our current environment (1-1, increased technology) and needs to be clarified and updated
 - Articulate the tracking of the offenses and emphasis on the learning
 - Collaboration v. Collusion; what is the difference between working with people if there is no expressed permission
 - Teachers should try to be as explicit as possible (ie: working together in class but try 3 problems at home totally on your own)
 - Goal: Students should learn, own, and encompass academic integrity
- **Homework:**
 - Possible change in how much tied to classes
 - Culture shifts on timing/need
 - Develop purpose for HW and include in handbook
- **Test/Quizzes:**
 - Multiple tests on one day

School Athletics:

- Expand athletic offerings; possible ideas: basketball, field hockey
 - Field hockey cost effective and has a population of interested kids
- If so, do we need an athletic handbook; uses MIAA and school values
- May build more leadership opportunities among students (attendance minimum, grade minimum, etc.)
- Preparing kids for high school experience

Next Meeting: May 21, 3pm; finish review of Handbook & Athletics