

Florence Sawyer School Council
January 24, 2018 Minutes
January Meeting/FSS Library

Attendance: Joel Bates, Hannah Kaplan, Mary Mullahy, Amy Cohen, Suzy Becker, Michael Horesh, Patti Darling, Mary McCarthy, Kristen Gaynor

A quorum is present. There is no correspondence to deal with

The minutes of the October and December meeting were unanimously approved.

SEPAC report - Joel reported that the coordinator has stepped down. The new coordinator will be organizing ongoing district wide meetings on a monthly basis going forward.

Principal's Report. Written report distributed. Joel reported that the MCAS schedule has been finalized and will be sent out in the next happenings. He will begin working on next year's schedule with a Master Schedule Task force soon.

New Business

Presentation on Social Emotional Learning (SEL)- Dr. Mary McCarthy presented a slideshow about this topic. She began by reminding us that we are representing the entire community that we belong to and not just our own opinions. We are an advisory panel for the entire school.

She described basics of SEL using references from CASEL.org. She noted connection between SEL and academic performance, noting that there is a reported 11 percent improvement in achievement test scores with SEL. She expressed the thought that SEL can be weaved into current curriculum, recognizing that there isn't time for a completely new curriculum. SEL is in line with the district improvement plan "to raise awareness of the risks and needs of our students with all stakeholders and to educate all students."

She suggested avenues to begin with, including a vision statement development, a survey to show what's already in place, and establishing a committee focused on SEL.

Budget Overview Joel distributed a written overview and explained the 3 main categories as 1.) Non salary requests, 2.) Salary requests, and 3.) Extracurricular stipends. Athletics is a district budget expense. He highlighted two areas of non-salary requests. The first is a request for additional books to support readers and writers workshop. The second is to upgrade the shelving units in the media center is a moveable units that can be configured to meet the needs of any group.

Questions came up regarding the likelihood of the chromebook 1:1 being extended to grades 6 and 7. Amy spoke in favor of it as a parent of kids in this age group. She noted that since homework is computer based it would allow more efficient use of home time without the need to share resources. Joel will report back in February on the status of it.

Safety Joel reported that physical safety is an ongoing obligation. We are looking at our fire drills, lock down drills, etc. The school safety committee will be looking at scheduling drills for implementing ALICE protocols. There are still issues to sort out about how to implement ALICE and keep kids emotionally safe and deal with aftermath.

Old Business

School Improvement Plan Goals - Joel reported that he went through document we prepared at November council meeting and tried to organize them into format for goals, action items, etc. He asked that we review them and be prepared to discuss for the next school council meeting.

Next meeting is February 14, 2018 in the library.