

Minutes - Regular Meeting February 6, 2018

Pursuant to notice February 6, 2018 at the Al Merritt Media and Cultural Center at 6:30 PM

Members Present: Mr. Doyle, Mr. Hayman, Mrs. Presser, Dr. Cammarata & Mr. Sjoberg

Others Present: Mrs. Tremblay, Mrs. Borseti, Mr. Cyr, Mr. Bates, Mr. Bemiss, Mr. Sallee, Mrs. Ryan, Mr. Geary, Mrs. Fennessy, Ms & Mrs. Ford, approximately 50 members of the community, and two members of the press.

6:30

Mr. Doyle opened the meeting at 6:30

6:31

1. Minutes presented for approval: January 9, 2018
Mr. Hayman MOVED to approve the Minutes for the regular meetings January 9, 2018.
Mrs. Presser seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor

6:31

2. Student Council Report
Student Council President Mia Ford reported on the current happenings at Lynnfield High School:
 - Snowball a huge success; photo booth
 - ALICE training; different training - more options on what to do
 - Followup drills throughout the year
 - Students have course selection sheets for 2018-2019
 - Jr. Prom 99 fundraiser tomorrow night
 - A portion of the sales will be donated to the Jr. class
 - Need to present a flyer; available at the high school

6:32

3. Collecting Data on SEL
Mr. Cyr & Mr. Bemiss
Mr. Cyr began the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) Collecting Data presentation explaining how this School Improvement Goal for Huckleberry Hill School ties into the LPS District Strategy. He reviewed Casel which is the national framework endorsed by the DESE and the state has adopted SEL standards for Pre K-K. LPS turned to this framework because the elementary schools needed common language. The Casel framework consists of the five competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, Relationship Skills.
Mr. Cyr stated educators use a variety of tools to measure progress both inside and outside the classroom. SEL is what educators do day in and day out and runs the gamut of staff; not just specific to teachers. SEL extends to the home school partnership.
Mr. Cyr reviewed the SEL Instruction slide which included:
 - Free-standing lessons - explicit skill sets
 - Targeting one skill set in the classroom
 - Cooperative learning
 - Integration with academic curriculum
 - Organized school-wide initiatives/culture
 - Evident when you walk into Huckleberry Hill School
Mr. Bemiss gave a brief history of SEL at Huckleberry Hill School and reviewed the following slides which outline Huckleberry Hill School's approach to SEL:
 - Huckleberry Heros
 - Started in 2009
 - Developed with School Council
 - Character Committee
 - Created learning objectives for the whole school for each month; usually three
 - Very specific objectives; notable success

- Teachers created curriculum which was not optimum given the mental health needs
- Second Step
 - Established Curriculum that provides a school wide systematic approach; research based approach
 - Teachers have curriculum and can enhance lessons in hand
 - Common language
- SEL Steering Committee
 - Responsible for planning professional development, communicating plans school wide to colleagues
 - Share skills and common language with all staff including support staff

Mr. Bemiss and Mr. Cyr said it is difficult to capture the data. Daily observations and conversations with students are the most powerful data we can collect. Some methods used are:

- Teacher created student self assessment
- Data Assessment sheets used at the elementary Data Assessment meetings
 - Data kept and can be compared at any time
- Teachers created student assessments for the end of a second step lesson
- Student Surveys
- Expected Behavior Forms
 - Used if a student is not demonstrating expected behavior
 - Forms filled out and discussed with student then sent home for discussion there

Mr. Cyr spoke about Panorama which creates surveys and surveys on SEL that align with Second Step and supports work done by faculty.

- Allows for evidence based research
- Measures student and school progress
- Allows LPS to maximize Second Step investment
- Build leadership capacity
 - Teachers presented during PD on what they are doing with SEL
- Access to Playbook
 - Moves by educators that are shared that get to a goal and action based on that goal and why it works in the classroom; simple tips
 - Incentive for a cooperative goal
 - Educator has resources at fingertips

During the question portion of the presentation The Committee, Mr. Cyr and Mr. Bemiss discussed:

- Self reflection assessments are immediate which allow teachers to act quickly and help the student turn the day around
- Panorama survey options
- Expanded on what a CLE (Collaborative Learning Experience) is including a current example
- Common language is shared with all staff members in the school community
- How a child being bullied has ways to communicate both within and out of the classroom

7:30

4. Risk Survey follow up

Mrs. Tremblay invited Mr. Bates, Mr. Cyr and Mr. Sallee to follow up on the Risk Survey Presentation Mr. Sallee opened the Middle School followup speaking about the three main areas which fall under mental health.

Suicidal thoughts by students

- Expand suicidal training for staff
- Keep Units current for Wellness Curriculum; new information and best practices
 - Give students basic guidelines on what to do

Stress; school demands & busy schedules (extracurricula & school combined)

- Help students develop skills to manage stress; whole school and grade level stress management
- Teacher training to recognize anxiety in students and provide better support

- Small workshops for students on time management during flexible non academic time

Social Conflict/Bullying

- Help students recognize social conflict
- Provide tools to deal with conflict resolution

Mr. Sallee would like to see the middle school go to a full whole school program on SEL. Need common language and tools for resolution.

The Substance Abuse Survey results do not show high numbers at the middle school level. Continuing measures will include:

- Expand the substance abuse program
- Work with School Resource officer
- Healthy Lynnfield Coalition

During discussion The Committee and Mr. Sallee further discussed:

- High stress rates and what teachers are doing to find a balance for students with homework so they are prepared for high school
 - Some stress good
 - Tools on handling and managing stress
 - Time management
- Percentage of social conflict occurring in building, on school grounds or outside of school
 - Have SEL Program in place to help kids solve social conflict
 - Look at programs used at other middle schools and Second Step used at Huckleberry Hill School; to pilot/test program possibly sometime next year

8:00

Mr. Bates spoke about the High School Risk Survey results and the three basic areas of concerns are:

- Mental Health - Suicide
 - Suicide attempts; 8% thought about it, 2% attempted it
 - Student Stress caused by
 - Busy schedules
 - School demands/expectations

Areas the High School is currently working on:

- Guidance and Adjustment Counselors attend SOS training
- Teachers enrolled in Mindfulness Course in preparation for 2018-2019 Student Mindfulness course
- Meditation
 - Improving weight room for yoga
- Support group
 - Lunch bunches
- Book club for teachers
- Guest Speakers
- Wellness days
- Vaping
 - Hot topic across the area
 - 30% have tried; 23% use it
 - Students use to calm down, relieve stress, relax, reduce anxiety
 - Focus Compass sessions on vaping, drugs and alcohol
 - Focus on incoming ninth graders
 - Discipline tie in educational component
 - Topic of Wellness Days
 - MIAA violation
 - Has impacted students this year
- Sexual Education
 - 20% had sexual intercourse; 18% reported using drugs or alcohol before sexual intercourse; 6% reported not using any type of pregnancy or STD prevention method
 - Students requested more education; a curriculum based experience
 - Physical Education Teachers working on curriculum/what to bring in

- Wellness Days
 - Table on healthy relationships

During discussion with The Committee included:

- Portion of stress driven by parental expectations
 - School looks at individual problem and speaks to parents
- Vaping opposed to smoking cigarettes
 - Most students are vaping
 - Students think vaping is safer
 - Educate parents
 - Continue to offer guest speakers

8:21

5. Enrollment, Space

Mrs. Tremblay invited Mrs. Crystal Bates and Mrs. Catherine Price to the table to address the questions regarding the cancellation of the PREDS Program at Summer Street School.

Mrs. Tremblay began the presentation with the Lynnfield Public Schools enrollment history for the past 20 years. She reviewed the bubble year, 2008-2009, where the schools experienced the largest influx in students specifically at the middle school. She also reviewed the enrollment trends for the past six years.

During the presentation Mrs. Tremblay reviewed how information for projecting enrollment is gathered including:

- New England School Development Council (NESDEC)
 - Was used but not reliable
- Administration enrollment process starts in November
 - Town clerk for census information
 - Area preschool and daycares
 - Past few years have seen growth in options; reach out to more facilities
 - Student Services Office enrollment
- Monitoring Early Intervention transitions and home visits
- Preschool and Kindergarten orientation, screening and registration nights
- Shared enrollment spreadsheet incoming K-12

Questions and concerns from Mrs. Bates and Mrs. Price included:

- Not being notified immediately of increased enrollment
 - Mrs. Tremblay notified parents within 24 hours after confirmation numbers went up
- Modular classrooms
 - Mrs. Tremblay responded that is not a consideration at this point
 - Mr. Doyle stated after being asked by Selectman Dalton if enrollment was at a critical stage the Board of Selectment is going to go back to the Capital Facilities Committee so they can take a look at that; on radar. Mrs. Presser added historical perspective on the building projects.
- Declining Preschool enrollment
 - Mrs. Mauro responded the ratios were not what they should be. Currently running at 40 students; historically 50-55 however more peer models than students with disabilities were being accepted then.
- Who is the Director of the Preschool
 - Shared role; Mrs. Ryan along with Mrs. Mauro and Mr. Hurray the Summer Street School Principal are all involved
- Could the Preschool move back to previous location at 525 Salem Street?
 - No; that would be a step backwards. There is no nurse on site, Director or specialists
- Formation of a Dedicated Task Force to include parents
 - Mr. Doyle spoke with the Selectmen about the interest Mrs. Bates expressed and the Selectmen said they have that group in place; The Capital Facilities Advisory Committee.

When the presentation concluded Mr. Doyle opened the meeting to additional public comments which included:

- Ms. Rachel McKenna asked when were the Preds staff informed as some parents had recommendations for their child to attend Preds
 - Mrs. Tremblay responded the staff was informed after the parents
- Ms. Nancy McManus asked what's going to happen if LPS runs out of space? Also current kindergarten class has high class size; there should be a ceiling on guidelines.
 - Mrs. Tremblay responded the numbers are being watched very closely. Some of the current Kindergarten classrooms have additional help.
- Ms. Caroline Brennan asked if the class size guidelines are Lynnfield's or the state's? And commented that Lynnfield lost grant money
 - Mrs. Presser responded they are Lynnfield's guidelines; the state does not have guidelines. And she commented that everyone who received those grants lost money.
- Mrs. McQueen commented on the domino effect of increased class size and sorry to hear about the preds program.
- Mr. McQueen reiterated the point of having parents more involved in expansion of the buildings.
- Ms. Natasha Anderson spoke about better future communications
- Ms. Kara Morton spoke about the new wave of parents who are deeply committed to what is happening in town. Most important stakeholders are the children
- Alexis Leahy commented she reviewed the past minutes and did see any mention of space planning.

Mr. Doyle spoke and explained enrollment is volatile and many factors impact that such as home sales, available apartments and divorce. We are doing the best we can with a fixed amount of space and fixed amount of money.

9:47

6. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Tremblay shared the following updates and happenings in the schools with The Committee:

- College acceptances
- Congratulations to Summer Street School Media Specialist Alex Caram
 - Awarded a MASSCUE classroom grant for books for babies. Program matches up older students with younger students
- Lynnfield High School received a check for \$15,000 as beneficiary for Barbara S. Gray Revokable Trust. This is a partial distribution from the trust for a Scholarship. Mr. Cleary will make the decisions regarding the Scholarship
- Recents Lynnfield High School Chamber Singers concert
- Huckleberry Hill Fine Arts night very successful
- Snowball fun night; happy it wasn't snowing
- Lynnfield Community Schools Middle School production of The Little Mermaid was this past weekend. The talent we have in young students is unbelievable. The production was three hours long.

9:53

7. Public Participation none

8. Matters for Action:

- Vote: 2018-2019 Incoming METCO Students
Mrs. Presser MOVED to approve up to four (4) incoming kindergarten METCO Students for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Hayman seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor.
- Vote: 2018-2019 Educatius Students
Mrs. Presser MOVED to approve admitting up to 10 Educatius students to Lynnfield High

School for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Hayman seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor.

- Vote: Lynnfield High School 2018-2019 Program of Studies
Mrs. Presser MOVED to approve the Lynnfield High School Program of Studies for the 2018-2019 school year. Mr. Hayman seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor.

Mrs. Presser MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:55; Mr. Hayman seconded the motion. Unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted
Diane Borseti
School Committee Secretary

Documents referenced:
Minutes - January 9, 2018
Collecting Data on SEL
Risk Youth Survey follow up
Enrollment, Space presentation