

School Site Council (SSC)
Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2020

Meeting Date: November 2, 2020	Meeting Location: Virtual
Starting Time: 3:30 pm	Ending Time: 4:15 pm
Ruth Pagano-Trn, Evelyn Baffico, Erika Martin, Ali Van der Heide, Melissa Stephens, Karen Hawk, Tahira Cunningham, Claudia Santos	

Dr. Baffico called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

The group reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. Ms. Cunningham moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ali Van der Heide.

The survey was returned by a small group of families. Dr. Baffico highlighted a few comments, such as the importance of including GATE students in strategic planning, the need for additional tutoring, STEM opportunities and math support. Many families expressed the desire to return to school for in person learning as well as a need for attendance incentives.

Dr. Baffico reviewed the site plan and discussed the importance of meeting the needs of subgroups through increasing technology, providing targeted intervention, diversifying the curriculum, as well as the need to focus on early literacy. She asked for feedback as to items that may need to be included that have not been addressed. She also reviewed details related to each subgroup.

Ms. Hawk discussed the need to have more physical books for the students to learn from and to move away from the screen-based learning. Dr. Baffico mentioned the idea of having two sets of textbooks at home so students would not have to bring them back and forth to school. Ms. Cunningham asked the group if a partnership with the PTO could facilitate an exchange of books. Dr. Baffico stressed that taking books home should be a priority so students can have access to literacy. Ms. Hawk mentioned giving students a stipend to pick out books from Scholastic.

Dr. Baffico reviewed the section on parent involvement and asked for suggestions as to what could be included. She also reviewed the goal of a positive school climate and highlighted the role of PBIS in increasing attendance through avoiding unnecessary suspensions. There was a discussion on attendance issues and the district-wide push to increase attendance.

Ms. Cunningham asked for clarification as to the reason students were not attending school due to suspensions. She also suggested putting students in leadership roles could change behaviors in a positive direction. Dr. Baffico discussed the difficult situations faced by homeless students. Many times these students have not had the opportunity to make connections with peers or teachers and were lacking an impetus to attend school.

Ms. Pagano-Trn mentioned the group My Brother's Keeper and how this is a way to reach out to students. She mentioned that there would be a lot of issues to unravel after students return to school. She noted that this will be challenging but it is something that we are very dedicated to addressing.

The group decided to move forward with the plan and will look again at the needs of our students in January.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

