

Commack Middle School

School-Based Management Team

Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2017

Members and Membership Groups

<i>Administration</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Teaching Staff</i>
Anthony Davidson*	Melissa Gordon	Ed Cuff
Christina Sapienza	April Haupt	Roger Eisenhardt ++
	Laurie Schoenfeld	Susan Boyce
		Mary Nerko
<i>CTA</i>	<i>Support Staff</i>	
Carolyn Burton	Veronica Plotke	

++ Facilitator

*Absent

Introduction

- Meeting began at 3:01 pm.

Adoption of Minutes from December 7, 2016

- Reviewed minutes and adopted

Old Business

- **Student involvement in SBMT Feedback Fall Festival/7th Grade Event**

We welcomed four students to our SBMT meeting to give us feedback on the Fall Festival and the 7th Grade Event. There were two 6th graders and two 7th graders. SBMT was explained to the students as a group of teachers, parents and administrators who meet monthly to discuss school events and programs. It was explained that we had recently decided to bring a student voice and feedback to SBMT for some of these events. Everyone introduced themselves. We first got feedback from the 6th graders. They said that they got feedback from their friends and listening to people talking at their lockers. Everyone seemed to like the Fall Festival. They also said that the students thought that it was well done. The only thing some students seemed to say was that they thought the beginning was too long. They loved the competition and being with their friends, but it dragged because not everyone was able to participate. They loved the physical games, like tug-of-war and hoola hoop . They suggested possibly also having booths with activities like a ring toss and other games. Overall, they said that it was a fun event. The 7th Graders then gave their input on the 7th Grade Event at Bowlero. They said that it was a lot of fun. They liked that a large number of their classmates came. They got to see people they don't always get to see. They thought that it would be fun to have the other grades at the event. They also mentioned how much they liked the game cards. They were able to compete with their friends on the games in addition to the bowling. Their friends gave feedback that they liked the games and that they got tickets to put toward prizes. They said that they liked the crane the most. Unfortunately, it stopped working and had to be fixed during the event. They were interested in having food for the event. They thought that we should charge extra to include food. They would at least like to have a menu with food choices that they could get faster. They also wanted to include their siblings. Overall, they liked the event and thought that next year's 7th Grade Event should be held at Bowlero. After the students left, the Committee agreed that this was a good introduction to student involvement and that the students really prepared for our meeting. All agreed that they made great presentations and that we should continue with having student input.

- **7th Grade Event**

The Committee had a discussion about how to proceed with the 7th Grade Event for next year. It was agreed to hold it at Bowlero again next year. Some details still need to be ironed out. There seemed to be a strong desire to have food available. It was agreed to further discuss and research providing food options at the event (at their own cost), as well as how to better handle registration and the contract deposit. Also, the students liked having the game cards. It was discussed that we should somehow incorporate a game card with the cost. The last item discussed was what to do with the \$345 left from the money collected for the event. The bowling alley only charged us for 75 people. Parent members reached out to PTA Council, and they said that they cannot be involved. They also stated that there are liability issues with a PTA member holding on to the funds. It was agreed that the Administration would reach out to the District Administration to discuss options with regard to the \$345 and the downpayment for next year's event.

- **New Business**

Dr. Sapienza introduced a new initiative by AMLE (Association for Middle Level Education) and other organizations, including the national forum, naming March as Young Adolescents Month. This is part of the middle level movement to recognize that middle school is different from junior high school. The focus is on three areas: academic excellence; developmental responsiveness; and socially equitable (equal access). This is also should be part of a on-going program, not just one month. During the month of March, the goal is to have schools sponsor activities focusing on the middle level students. Some ideas for activities that Dr. Sapienza relayed are having a calendar on the wall which had a special quote or event every day of the month; doing a fun activity during lunch; and programs recognizing overlooked hardships that middle school students deal with regularly, like sleep deprivation and nutrition. The goal is to recognize the students for who they are and honor them. Also, it would be an opportunity to cultivate relationships with teachers and other adults in the building. The Committee agreed that there should be something done at CMS to recognize Young Adolescents Month. The Committee members came up with some ideas. They included having a carnival instead of gym class one day; an extended homeroom kick-off; a 9th period pep-rally kick-off; a parent academy; a week with a different school schedule; a school-wide activity for the entire community; art work on display; or music playing during lunch periods. It was decided for the Committee members to think about ideas, and a discussion will be held at next month's meeting. It was also agreed that we could do something smaller scale this year, but work on a bigger program for next year. We don't have that much time to plan activities for this year. The Committee agreed that we would have to get working on this quickly. Roger Eisenhardt said to email him before the meeting if there are any suggestions.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by April Haupt