

Commack Middle School

School-Based Management Team

Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2017

REVISED

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 3:03 pm.

Adoption of Minutes from April 5, 2017

- Reviewed minutes and adopted

Old Business

- **Student feedback regarding the Carnival for June-**
 - It was requested that the committee receive student feedback from students about the CMS Carnival at the next meeting. Mr. Eisenhardt suggested that the focus be on 7th and 8th grade students, as attendance of the event included mainly these two grades.
 - The group was reminded that there will be one vacancy needing to be filled by a community member, now that Mrs. Haupt is no longer a part of SBMT. Mr. Eisenhardt requested that the committee entertain a permanent student position on the SBMT. Mr. Davidson suggested that the idea be tabled until next year, when the new SBMT group is together. The PTA's position is that it strongly opposes a permanent student member, and would rather students be a part of the committee on an as-needed-basis.
- **Wildcat Awards –**
 - The Wildcat Awards are underway, applications will be collected and looked at by Guidance. Winners will then be selected.
- **Respect, Responsibility, Relationships-**
 - There have been 24 responses, and so far has been successful. Awards have yet to be determined.
- **Everyday Hero Award-**
 - The Everyday Hero Award is awarded to a staff or community member who made significant contributions to Middle School students. Mr. Eisenhardt read off the names that were submitted, highlighting the individuals that were nominated more than once. Mr. Davidson suggested that the committee focus on the reasons why the individuals were nominated, and read the Google Doc to the group. After lengthy discussion, the committee narrowed nominees down to two recipients. One recipient was said to always be involved, maintains positive relationships with students, and is considered the 'glue' to

Student Council. Mr. Davidson stated that the second recipient's impact is often "unsung", does a great deal for the Arts and Education program, is considered very humble and puts in a great deal of "behind the scenes" time. It was agreed that the second recipient will not be able to win next year while the first recipient will have that opportunity, and ultimately it was unanimously decided that second recipient was selected and deserving of the award.

New Business

Goals for 2017-2018

- **PTA inquiry regarding bleachers at lower soccer/lacrosse field** – A request was made by a parent not on the committee to purchase bleachers for parents by the soccer field. It was decided that this is something that will be entertained the following school year.
- **Revisiting the Backpack Rule** – Anthony explained why the Backpack Rule should be revisited next year. While SBMT unanimously made the backpack rule, the "battle is being lost." The committee should consider if this is something to continue fighting, after getting limited support from the community, or if it is better off letting go. Teachers stated that backpacks are still everywhere, students are not utilizing lockers, and they are not learning the organization/time management skills that the backpack rule was meant to improve. It was reminded that the backpack rule was originally put in place for safety concerns. Mrs. Nerko stated that some teachers have designated areas in their classroom for backpacks for those safety reasons. The idea of rewarding students for not carrying a backpack because there are rewards for positive behavior was brought up by Mrs. Schoenfeld, while Mrs. Gordon did not like the idea of sending a student to the dean for carrying a backpack. Dr. Sapienza stated that whatever is decided, it must be consistent across the building and that teachers might need to take more time in the month of September to enforce the rule rather than taking a little time all year long. Something must be done differently to ensure the effectiveness of the rule while considering that the students are still middle school kids who need to develop important skills.
- **Additional Items for Next Year** - Veronica reported that after sending out an email, Dr. Jurgens asked if there was a place for a mental health employee on the committee and that Dr. Taylor would like to join. Mr. Davidson said he would look at the rules of the committee to see who may be added. SBMT must follow the charter with a restrict number of staff to maintain balance between members.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 3:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ed Cuff