

# *Commack Middle School*

## **School-Based Management Team**

### *Meeting Minutes*

*December 6, 2017*

#### *Members and Membership Groups*

<i>Administration</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Teaching Staff</i>
Anthony Davidson	Jill Breslin	Sue Boyce
Ali Glassman*	Vicki Ragavanis	Ed Cuff
	Laurie Schoenfeld	AnnMarie Ferreri
		Mary Nerko*
<i>CTA</i>	<i>Support Staff</i>	Randie Taylor
Carolyn Burton-Gadja	Veronica Plotke*	

**++Facilitator**

**\*Absent**

#### **Introduction**

- Meeting began at 3:03 pm.

#### **Adoption of minutes from November 1, 2017 meeting**

- The minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting were adopted.

#### **Old Business**

#### **LGBTQ Discussion**

- Parents in the community provided receptive feedback and agreement to bring LGBTQ education to health classes.
- Questions remain about how to bring in subject matter and discussion into class without making those who identify as LGBTQ uncomfortable, but research shows it is best to normalize differences and that discussion helps LGBTQ individuals feel heard and provide a sense of belonging and develop a more inclusive community.
- Preference remains to educate students within the school setting, rather than leave “education” up to peer groups and entertainment.
- Teachers agreed to begin discussion in health class, then perhaps take part in assemblies.
- LGBTQ books are available in the middle school library.
- Sixth grade may not be the developmentally appropriate time to begin LGBTQ education, but it is perhaps best addressed in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th grade.
- It may be best to approach parents first and provide a workshop opportunity.
- At the next SBMT meeting, the discussion will continue, and a plan will be determined as to how to proceed.

#### **Backpack Rule Discussion**

- According to polls:
  - Students disagree with the rule, although most understand the reason behind it.
  - 13 teachers agreed with the no-backpack rule.
  - 30+ disagreed with the rule.

- Supply lists will be addressed with the Building Leadership Team.
- Parents in the community suggested that students in a skills class should have lockers nearby these classrooms because these students need books from all subjects.
- It was suggested that departments formalize binder cleanouts.
- The decision to eliminate the backpack rule was unanimous.
- At the next SBMT meeting, it will be decided how and when to disseminate information, how to get support from community, and how to best move away from the rule.

**New Business**

- None

**RRR staff recognition program**

- Parents are asked if any staff members stand out, and letters are sent to these teachers commending their positive attributes.

**Change in end-of-year schedule**

- Scheduling of the Wildcat Awards and the development of a 2-day field day will be further discussed at the next SBMT meeting in January.

**Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:58.
- Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

*Respectfully submitted by Ed Cuff*