

Commack Middle School School-Based Management Team Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2018

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 3:05 pm.

Adoption of minutes from December 6, 2017 meeting

- The minutes from the December 6, 2017 meeting were adopted.

Old Business

1. **LGBTQ:** Discussion of options for delivery of LGBTQ education to students at CMS
 - Specifics regarding the delivery of LGBTQ education are still being researched and explored. However, the committee was informed that the CMS PRIDE Club, or CMS's version of a Gay-Straight Alliance, was given final approval and will begin meeting in the coming months.

2. **Backpacks:** Begin discussion regarding implementation of final decision to rescind no backpack rule
 - There will NOT be an announcement to the school about the removal of the backpack rule.
 - As a building, we will need to work with students on organization and helping them to develop tools to manage their materials.
 - Information about changes to the backpack rule will be disseminated at the beginning of the year, along with a revised supply list.
 - Building leadership teams will need to provide information about revisions to the supply list.
 - Parents feel it would be helpful to teach students how to best utilize their lockers.
 - Students will need to be made aware that they are still expected to use their lockers along with the option to carry a backpack during the school day.
 - The building needs to continue to address the reasons that led to the original formation of the backpack rule: Health/Spinal Issues and Safety in the classroom. We would need to revise supply lists and create time for systematic cleanouts.
 - It would be helpful for teams to come up with a "team procedure" for where to place backpacks in the classroom in order to maintain consistency.
 - Discussed why students are not using lockers: afraid to be late to class, not enough room for books and outerwear garments, proximity to class.
 - PTA will have parents highlight materials on supply list that were in fact necessary.

- A committee member will meet with the head of teaming to discuss the idea of creating supply lists by team.
- Recommendations about backpack rule changes will be presented at the next BLT meeting.
- Conversations will be held with the administrators at Burr and Sawmill regarding the possibility of 5th grade students utilizing their lockers in preparation for locker use at the middle school.

3. Change in end-of-year schedule:

- Wildcat Award
 - Created by SBMT, any student can apply.
 - Announcement about process will be made in ELA classes and students will submit applications to Guidance.
 - Not based on academics. Rather, students write an essay reflecting on their progress related to the learner profile traits.
 - Award ceremony used to be during finals week, but now will be held earlier in June.
 - About 20-30 students are recognized at a breakfast, parents are invited to attend.
- Formation of 2-day field day for all grade levels
 - Attendance at Arts-in-Education programs is low
 - CMS is working with Sportime to put together a 2-day field day. A proposal is currently being formulated.

New Business

1. Vaping: Discussed concerns about rise in prevalence of vaping at CMS. Discussed ways to educate students about the negative effects.
 - Parents feel that vaping is an emerging problem that needs to be addressed.
 - On January 16th, Andrea Allen will be working with the CMS mental health staff and the Deans to provide information regarding vaping.
 - Vaping is a problem throughout the island and we don't know the long-term effects.
 - At CMS, bathroom doors are being removed over the summer.
 - The Suffolk County PD does a push-in program for 7th and 8th grade Health classes called Police Smart. Students are educated about vaping and its effects.
 - Fear about vaping is that it is a gateway behavior. The ease of changing pods from nicotine to marijuana is concerning.
 - Questions were asked about consequences for being caught vaping in school. Deans' procedures were explained, "reasonable suspicion" to search was explained.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:59pm
- Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Respectfully submitted by Randie Taylor