

Commack Middle School

School-Based Management Team

Meeting Minutes

Members and Membership Groups

October 4, 2017

| <i>Administration</i> | <i>Community</i> | <i>Teaching Staff</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Anthony Davidson | Vicki Ragavanis | Ed Cuff |
| Ali Glassman | Jill Breslin | Randie Taylor ++ |
| | Laurie Schoenfeld | Susan Boyce |
| | | Mary Nerko |
| <i>CTA</i> | <i>Support Staff</i> | Ann Marie Ferreri |
| Carolyn Burton-Gajda | Veronica Plotke | |

++ Facilitator

*Absent

Introduction

- Meeting began at 3:01 pm.

Adoption of Minutes from September 13, 2017

- The minutes from the September 13, 2017 meeting were adopted.

Introductions

- Members introduced themselves and all were welcomed.
- Clarification of the difference between Decisioning Minutes and Meeting Minutes.

Old Business

- Reminder to new members of mandatory SBMT training on October 16, 2017, at Hubbs Administration Building from 4-6pm.
- **Courtyard Cleanup**
 1. Scheduled for October 21, 2017.
 2. All are encouraged to attend.
 3. Transformation of the courtyard over the years through these cleanups.
 4. Mr. Davidson commended the members of the Girl Scouts for their work on the beautification of the courtyard.
 5. Old tables have been replaced with new red tables.

Backpack Rule Discussion

Mr. Davidson gave a brief history of the Backpack Rule. The Backpack Rule was an initiative of the SBMT. The rule was brought about due to concerns about the weight of the backpacks students were carrying during the school day.

Sharing from SBMT members on feedback, concerns and suggestions:

- PTA has not had a meeting. Community members will reach out at the next PTA meeting for feedback on the Backpack Rule.
- Some staff members received parent phone calls concerning clarifications on the backpack announcement.
- Staff members feel the backpack issue is low on the list of classroom priorities however understood the importance of the rule.
- Designating a spot in the classrooms to hold backpacks.
- Not using lockers- possible link to anxiety of the students being late to class.
- Lack of skills in opening the lockers.
- 6th grade teachers worked on locker skills with students during the first days of school.
- Start training for locker usage at the intermediate level.
- Locker kick-off day-along the same lines as the PBIS kick-off.
- Concerns about the quantity of supplies being carried around by the students.
- Concerns moving forward with the backpack rule if all concerned parties are not on the same page about this issue.
- Administration reached out to building leaders and the majority felt this issue was not worth the battle.
- Concerns about safety in the classrooms where movement is required by the students.
- String bags are too small to hold the binders.
- Misconception that the string bags are supposed to hold the binders.
- A staff member reached out to a few students to gauge their thoughts about the Backpack Rule. The biggest concern was the lockers are too small to hold their backpacks, binders, and coats.
- Concerns about long term physical issues for students.
- Importance of reaching out for feedback at team meetings.
- Concerns of student safety in the hallways with being bumped into with a backpack.
- Including locker skills at the 5th grade orientation.
- Conducting a survey to give a student voice to this issue.
- Cleaning out and organizing binders in the classroom to elevate the size of binders.
- Received doctor's notes of medical reasons students need to carry their backpacks during the day.
- Need clarification of exact diagnosis requiring carrying a backpack.
- Poll of Long Island Middle School backpack policies was shared.

LGBTQ

- LGBTQ will be tabled until next meeting.

Revisiting CMS mascot

- No discussion at meeting.

New Initiatives:

- None

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.
- The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Veronica Plotke