

Meeting Minutes:

5:00 - 5:05 Call to order, Review meeting agenda, Sign-in, Introductions

In attendance: Kaela Evans, Jason Kopecky, Sonia Geerdes, Jessica Collins, Carissa Lanc, Lindsay Killian, Barb Silverstein.

5:05 - 5:10 Approve November Minutes

5:10 – 5:30 Follow Up from Action Items:

- **Safe to Tell Boxes/ K-2 Lessons**

Boxes: Coming in January! Lessons: 5th grade happened; coming up for K-2

- **Homework Survey**

41 responses to survey total - most responses in 3rd grade

Rigor: 81% thought it was just right, 12% thought it was too hard, 7% thought it was too easy

Time: 61% right amount of time, 32% thought too long of a time; 7% too short of a time

Discussion:

- Share this with teachers throughout the building
- Parents will have different opinions because everyone is different
- Is this aligned with the vision of the school overall (experiential, individualized, whole child)
- Can we better convey the changes that have already been made to align with the vision so that parents are aware of that
- Look at the research base - ASCD Educational Leadership issue about individualization
- Homework from a teacher view is designed to reinforce skills already taught - varies by grade
- Look at connecting to Pi Day
- Encourage families with homework concerns to talk to teachers
- **Reviews on Social Media**
 - Ask PTA parents to do a review
- **Marketing Plan**
 - Doing lots of outreach right now to families with young children, apartment buildings, businesses
 - Looking at adding local health care providers, kid-focused businesses, kid activities
 - Other ideas?
- **Pi Day Survey – Coming in February!**
 - Will survey families in February about when to do the Pi Day activity (morning or end of day)

5:30 – 6:00 Parent Suggested Topics:

- **Class Dojo**

- All classroom teachers using it
- Designed to build community / connection
- Parents like the connection to the community, like the photos especially about content or quick videos but not long ones, like the communication
- Teachers use points mostly positively but some negatives, mostly for communication (some individual messages, some whole group), some photos (can be hard to find the time to post those in the moment), different levels of comfort/experience

- School-wide expectations around this can be set: Sonia will have everyone add her as a coteacher and will set an expectation about not using negative points individually, recommendation to post at least twice a week related to content
- **School Counselor**
 - Psychologists currently do individual counseling and group counseling; typically working with students with IEPs; do all the evaluations and assessments and the required time that goes with that; also supporting 4 classes with SEL and mindfulness in 3 or 4 classrooms as well; check-ins/check-outs; recess supports; scheduled breaks
 - Ingrid/Kim currently do a lot of the connecting families to resources, attendance, etc
 - School counselor could add in more career/post-secondary pieces, more preventative model, more school-wide supports - also mental health providers - may be less expensive than school psychologist so worth considering both
 - Tabled for now

6:00 – 6:30 Pre-Budget Prioritizing:

- Sonia has first budget meeting tomorrow and may get some hard numbers
- **2nd grade Expansion**
 - **Specials Schedule/Staffing**
 - Recommendation from Sonia that we don't for next year; concerns that the physical building will not be done by then and only 26 current 1st graders
- **Student Support Roles**
 - **Psych/Counselor/Social Worker**
 - Counselor may be less \$; intern is also cheaper
 - **Administrative Assistant**
 - Hoping to keep Kim for another year - does a lot, has relationships and expertise
- **Office Roles**
 - **Budget Specialist**
 - In office, currently McT has Theresa (Office Support 2), Ingrid (Community Liaison), Ms. Romero (Para)
 - Would live at central office, not in McT - we'd pay 1/2 of a salary and they would run all financials and hiring processes for McT; would have to decrease Office Support 2 level to Office Support 1
 - **Other ideas?**
 - Consider additional Team Lead for Intermediate grades

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday 1/9	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Budget, Staffing Plan
Tuesday 2/13	5:00 – 6:30 pm	Budget, Staffing Plan, Roadmap to Future Update
Tuesday 3/13	5:00 – 6:30 pm	TBD
Tuesday 4/10	5:00 – 6:30 pm	TBD
Tuesday 5/8	5:00 – 6:30 pm	TBD

Action Item:	Owner:	Date Due:
1. Find Educational Leadership article on homework individualization and send to everyone	Allison	
2. Communicate school-wide Class Dojo expectations	Sonia	
3. Get numbers for any difference in cost between school counselor and school psychologist	Sonia	
4. Get numbers for cost of Budget Specialist	Sonia	

11/13/2018 Meeting:

5:00 - 5:05 Call to order, Review meeting agenda, Sign-in, Introductions

- In attendance: Sonia Geerdes, Kaela Evans, Barb Silverstein, Jason Kopecky, Aisha Baker, Allison Gleichman, Stephen Kozicki

5:05 - 5:10 Approve October Minutes and Action Items (Sonia: Safe2Tell Scheduling)

Discussion Notes:

- 3rd/4th students have had the Safe2Tell classroom lesson; 5th will have it after Thanksgiving
- K-2nd will be incorporated via SEL curriculum later in the year; will be adding boxes for letting students report when they/a friend need help
- Psychologist/intern will be doing check-ins with teachers for support and accountability on SEL implementation

5:10 – 5:45 SPF Review and Question/Answer

Discussion Notes:

- McT overall earned 70.25 points out of 99 points possible. A LOT to celebrate - this would be solidly in Meets (green), except that our Academic Gaps score is overall Approaching (yellow)
- Growth: Distinguished (blue)! 82nd percentile (our kids grow more than 81% of other kids at comparable levels)
- Status: better at literacy, not as strong at math (this has been a trend and the school continues to work on it)
 - The bar for meeting expectations at “status” level continues to rise in literacy to better align with standard proficiency levels in later ages/grade - this is done to ensure that conversations are accurate at younger ages about grade-level proficiency
- Family and Student Engagement and Satisfaction: Parent satisfaction is generally high; student satisfaction is significantly higher, likely due to increased relationships
- Academic Gaps: our rating is “Approaching” in this category. We have many categories in which we did not get a score at all because we don’t have enough students; we needed one additional student to be enrolled and take the tests to be able to get scores in the additional categories (current scores were very high, just we are a small school).
 - This overall score is not representative of our student scores, including in our student scores related to our students in poverty and our students of color. DPS explicitly labelled McKinley-Thatcher as a school

that is “particularly successful in supporting students of color” and “particularly successful in supporting low-income students” (third-most successful district elementary school in these categories).

- Suggestions for communicating: use layman’s terms; focus on size of school, the impact each student has, and the number of students needed to have scores included; consider marketing overall (Great Schools, Pearl Street Winterfest, social media outreach, marketing video)

5:45 - 6:15 Parent Suggested Discussion:

- **Homework:**
 - Discussion about purpose and levels of homework. Talked about individualization, intentionality, and the potential for it; being able to differentiate is a goal. Having flexibility in how it is handled (due dates, etc). Have teachers reach out to parents about homework levels/appropriateness. Tabling conversation for now.
- **Class Dojo**
 - Tabled to December
- **School Counselor**
 - Tabled to December

6:15 – 6:30 Open Floor / Next Meeting Agenda

Action Item:	Owner:	Date Due:
1. Boxes for students to report needs for help	Sonia	January 2019
2. Talk to teachers about homework.	Sonia	January 2019
3. Survey families for Pi Day	Sonia	January 2019
4. Encourage reviews of school on social media	Sonia	January 2019
5. Marketing plan	Sonia	January 2019

10/9/2018 Meeting:

5:00 - 5:05 Call to order, Review meeting agenda, Sign-in

- In attendance: Sonia Geerdes, Sarah Gilmore, Jason Kopecky, Allison Gleichman, Julia Prokoporyeh, Lindsay Killian, Kaela Evans, Barb Silverstein

5:05 - 5:10 Distribute CSC Handbook to New Members

Review rules of order, quorum, and consensus-based decision making

Review Officers: Chairperson (Kaela Evans) and Secretary (Allison Gleichman)

5:10 – 5:55 Increasing Parental/Family Involvement

- Review Parent Satisfaction Survey Results - Notes:
 - Lower response rate (same level as district rate but down from year before)
 - Lots of positives in communication, in being welcoming, in academics

- Growth: opportunities for parent workshops, trainings, classes 71%; parent/teacher conferences satisfaction 87% but dropped 10%; child being challenged by work given 76%
- Discussion Notes:
 - Hopes that having a second set of conferences in spring will help as will having a more student-led focus (vision-driven)
 - Parent workshops:
 - SEL possibilities: some increase in responsive classroom materials being sent home but perhaps more so and in person opportunities; maybe including/increasing SEL info in teacher newsletters (currently included in ECE)
 - Need for more support with math: possibly grade-level differentiated math games/information (maybe copies sent home for parents to work with); understanding of differences in how parents were taught math versus how kids are being taught it now; finding ways to get kids excited about math/STEM; communicating CCSS Math Practice standards
 - Reading support: older grades moving to reading to learn and not just learning to read; ECE had a good experience with a Denver Public Library presenter; Spring Showcase (April 2019) 3/4/5 could showcase some performance task work
 - Homework help night: more information on how to support your child using questions and helping to get them to think rather than doing it for them (part of SEL night)
 - New nights scheduled:
 - 11/6/18 Social-Emotional Learning; specific topics to be chosen at PTA (6 different sessions will be offered; kids will have a puppet show to watch) - Sonia will look into recording it
 - Jan 2018 Science Night - Science Fair and other fun science stuff
 - March 2018 Cultural Night
 - TBD Family Fitness Night and Art/Maker Space Night
- Decision-Making:
 - Pi Day (3/14) math party differentiated by classrooms, during school day and led by students; focused on workplaces, encouraging positivity, and parent prompts of how to ask questions of your children; surveying families for time most likely to attend

5:55 – 6:15 Supporting all McT Student Needs / Developing an Inclusive School

- Discussion Notes:
 - Stems from PTA discussion of concerns around supporting mental health/preventing bullying, needs of whole child, how to report issues
 - Screening about student needs coming up - grades 3/4/5
 - Begun last year
 - Three main categories of self-report: socialization, internalizing behaviors, externalizing behaviors
 - Flags kids who could use additional supports
 - Will share information with families if child is flagged
 - Students then work with school psychologists and are reevaluated in spring
 - McT School Culture Committee (NOT the same as Cultural Night)
 - Created survey for staff on SEL implementation and needed supports
 - Considering how we celebrate school values related to learning
 - Student & staff reporting
 - Did training for all staff on signs of and responses to suicide, self-harm, threats
 - Will do K-5 training on Safe2Tell and other reporting / safe space options

6:15- 6:25 Open Floor – New Topics, Questions, or Proposals

6:25 – 6:30 Reviewing Action Items and Next Steps

- Next month: homework amounts and intentionality, Class Dojo and how it is being used

Action Items

- Sonia: schedule Safe2Tell presentations