

SLT MEETING MINUTES
Meeting date: October 20, 2021

In attendance:

1. Emel Topbas-Mejia
2. Chris Jennings
3. Marissa Pashley
4. Katie O'Connor
5. Conor Doyle
6. Melissa Velasco
7. Jen Bennion
8. Einat Lev
9. Karima Khawja
10. Christina Harvey
11. Lia Gautier
12. Joy Waitkus

I. Welcome

A Student will be joining in November. We need to take 10 minutes per item.

II. Review and Approval of September 2021 Minutes

III. Update on Covid Testing and Quarantine Procedures

Principal Topbas-Mejia provided an update:

130 students are vaccinated

10% of unvaccinated students (560) are tested weekly

Only 15% of families have submitted consent forms

Parent and faculty members raised strong concerns about the low number of consent forms. Parents also raised concerns about lack of testing sites in the district and families ignoring quarantining. In order to increase numbers it was decided to:

Set up tables with paper consent forms

Compile a list of testing sites (Einat)

Ask teachers to strongly remind students to hand in forms (this should be done privately one-on-one as well).

Mr. Jennings asked Ms. Bennion to bring up the issue at the PTO, and urge parents to consent to testing. Ms. Bennion was concerned that other schools families are refusing to hand in forms because they don't want the schools closed.

IV. Beginning of Year Assessments

Principal Topbas-Meijia presented the screeners being used to track student progress, they will be done on 10/29:

- a. Grades K-2 Literacy: Acadience
- b. Grades K-8 Math: iReady
- c. Grades K-8 Literacy: iReady
- d. Pre-K Screener

Ms. Harvey asked when state exam results will be available?

V. Social/Emotional Health Supports for School Community

Grades K-8 SEL Screener: Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)

Teachers will be trained on using the screener. It is administered one-on-one. The lead teachers (The guidance counselors and one IS teacher will be trained by the end of October). Letters will also go out to families.

Ms. Harvey, Ms. Waitkus and Ms. Gautier raised various concerns about post-pandemic behavior. Kids are not used to interacting, group dynamics, and there has been unruly behavior after school in the school yard.

Mr. Jennings explained that any serious afterschool problems in the schoolyard need to be dealt with by the police. It is not the school's responsibility. Ms. Harvey strongly objected to reaching out to the police. It was agreed that if kids are doing dangerous things, the administration should be made aware.

VI. Outdoor Lunch for grades 6-8

There is a lot of demand for this practice to return. Request for approval is taking longer due to Covid. Ms. Bennion would work on a written proposal to send to the superintendent with parent and student signatures.

VII. Faculty/Staff parking in the school bus zone on Fort Washington Ave.

This is considered urgent and will be discussed over email. Ms. Velasco said she was accosted about parking. She asked if she should survey teachers about the situation.

Next Meeting Date: November 17 at 7:00 a.m. via zoom