

PRMS School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

SGC Members Present: M.J. Chironna (co-chair), Joe Giandurco, Angelica Goldblatt, Ena Jain, Amy Jeffereis, Damon Lewis (co-chair), Jennifer Montanari

Team Members Absent: Eva Beau, Dawn Greco, Laurie Hall, Ellen Knapp, James Lynch, Jamie Matis, Joe Perella, Mayra Quispe

Next Meeting: May 15, 2018

Review and Finalize PRMS Student Based Budget (SBB)

- Reviewed and discussed BOE budget reductions including recent additional funding of \$950,000 from the city's Rainy Day Fund and draw down from the BOE health insurance reserve of \$1,100,000. We do not know if this additional funding will be reallocated to middle schools so we are unable to finalize and approve the PRMS SBB.
- We are very concerned about all middle school reductions but especially the reduction of one guidance counselor. This would leave two guidance counselors each responsible for over 350 middle school students with a large percent of high needs students.
- Reviewed the PRMS SBB. We were told we could reallocate funding from flexible line items to pay for a guidance counselor. The total of the 40 "flexible" line items is only \$76,121. We do not want to draw down all of these accounts. In addition, the cost of a guidance counselor is \$90,000 so therefore, we are unable to even reallocate enough money to keep our guidance counselor.
- As an SGC, we are frustrated with guidance counselor department reductions since in January we attended mandatory SGC training discussing the NPS School Wellness Overview. One of the primary initiatives is Social/Emotional Health. As a result of this training, we started revising our School Improvement Plan (SIP) incorporating social/emotional and healthy living goals and strategies. Of course, our three guidance counselors would be instrumental in bringing these goals and strategies to fruition.
- We discussed how our guidance counselors support our students and families in many more ways than the activities listed in their job descriptions.
- The BOE, Dr. Adamowski and Dr. Costanzo need to hear from the community about reallocating funding for guidance counselors. We will create a template (MJ) and send to stakeholders via the PTSO, the Hispanic Parent Group, the PTOC, the Norwalk Parents for Education Facebook page and via other community members to advocate for the funding of our guidance counselors. We need emails to be sent out on a daily basis to BOE etc. and then need people to attend BOE Finance Committee meeting and BOE meeting. Joe G. will find out the dates of the BOE meetings and then we will forward to stakeholders.

Updates:

- **NPS School Wellness Initiative** (Ena)
 - The Health Education Module and the Physical Education, Other Physical Activity Program Module, and Counseling, Psychological and Social Services Module will be completed by pertinent Ponus staff by May 1st.
- **Principal Meet and Greet at Norwalk Housing Authority** – (Eva)
 - This is still an important initiative by the SGC.
- **Ponus Ridge STEM Magnet School** (Jen and Eva)
 - There has not been a meeting in the past month. However, there was discussion about breaking ground in March 2019 with the extension by the cafeteria.
- **NFT** (Joe G.)
 - No update.
- **Hispanic Parent Group Meeting** (Angelica)
 - Mr. Tejada (Harvard House Guidance Counselor) will be speaking at meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18th to discuss SBAC testing, expectations etc.
- **Career Day** (Joe G., Ellen)
 - Career Day student survey has been created and we will disseminate next school year. Career Day will be scheduled for the next school year.
- **SGC 2018-2019 Election**
 - There will be 4 parent SGC openings (MJ, Angelica, Dawn and Joe P.) and 3 SGC teacher openings (Ellen, Jim and Jamie) next year.
 - We need to recruit candidates (May/June) to place on election ballots for election beginning of school year. September 2018 SGC meeting should be scheduled after election and two community members will be voted on at this meeting. Survey Monkey is a good tool to utilize for the parent and teacher elections.

Review PRMS School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Since this is a fluid document, the SIP will be revisited in the 2018-2019 school year.

Prepared by: M.J. Chironna