

PRMS School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

SGC Members Present: Brenda Barto, M.J. Chironna, Colleen Connors, Linda Dragotta (co-chair), Joe Giandurco, Ena Jain, Amy Jeffereis, Damon Lewis (co-chair), Jill Katkocin, Jennifer Montanari, Ana Schlager, Rafael Tejada

Team Members Absent: Eva Beau, Marianna Carlisi, Karen Cruz, Mayra Quispe

Next Meeting: April 1, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Minutes from 2/6/19 meeting were approved by SGC and will be translated to Spanish by Ana Schlager. The minutes will also be forwarded to the web master.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)/School Improvement Plan

- Mr. Giandurco shared preliminary survey results. 575 students took this anonymous survey. More information will be provided in the April meeting. Data from this survey will be helpful to improve and enhance relationships between the students and staff.
- Per Mrs. Chironna, a sub-committee will be formed for S.E.L. She met with Dr. Lewis and discussed the vision of this sub-committee, which includes staff members, parents, and guidance counselors. Information was shared and distributed that involved what goes into assembling an SEL Team.
- Mr. Tejada began teaching lessons in 7th grade health classes. Looking toward possibility of developing a program that can be adopted through every grade to give student the resources to handle stress, peer pressure, etc.
- Mrs. Katkocin mentioned homeroom being extended to give teachers more time to focus on mindfulness for students, based on their needs. Every student stays with the same homeroom teacher beginning in grade 6 and continuing through grade 8. This maintains a growing trust and rapport between teacher and student.
- There was a concern raised that there needs to be more resources readily available for parents and students. The Parent/student handbook would be a great item to have and could be distributed during 6th grade orientation. Also, the need for a school resource center was suggested.
- The SIP revisions were made and student data input (ELA scores increased, which is great news!). This will be discussed at our 4/1 meeting.

Action Items

- SEL Update/ Sub Committee Selection – M. Chironna/Dr. Lewis
- Final review with the SIP revisions.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Brenda Myers, Middle School Redesign

- Ponus will be a S.T.E.A.M School Other schools have a focus: (Silvermine: Dual Language/Tracy: Character) and this will be Ponus Ridge's. Social, emotional, and academics will all be instrumental components of this redesign.
- Since this is at the beginning stages, she believes everyone's input is equally as important. She would like a focus group to be created that includes students, parents, teachers. What is their vision for Ponus? This will create a lens for the working STEAM committee who will pick the programs that go into the Middle School redesign.
- Timeline:
 - 2020/2021 – Middle School begins the STEAM redesign.
 - 2021/2022 Jefferson renovation – Students will come to PONUS during this time.
 - Elementary Students begin entering PONUS for grades K,2,4
 - 2022/2023 Jefferson students back in their home school
 - Grades 1, 3, and 5 will be entering PONUS.

Action Items

- Focus Group for teachers in regards to middle school design will take place on 4/1 at 3:15.
- Focus Group for Parents will be on 4/1 beginning at 6:30. One session will be done in English, from 6:30-7:30. One session will be spoken in Spanish from 7:30-8:30.
 - Guidance will select parents to join the focus group session with personal phone calls. (6/6/6 parents from 6, 7, & 8th grades).

Prepared by: Linda Dragotta and M.J. Chironna