

PRMS School Governance Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

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

Team Members Absent: Mariana Carlisi, Mayra Quispe

Next Meeting: February 6, 2019 @ 5:30 p.m.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

- Currently have PBIS in place - Ponus was recognized as a PBIS Banner School in 2013.
- There have been specific guidance initiatives in the past but have not lasted long.
- Need something more extensive to reach all kids.
- Mr. Giandurco recommends we start from the “ground up” to build our own SEL program and present to the board, which will take time. We discussed - how can we increase opportunities for students to connect with a trusted adult and strengthen social emotional skills? Our ideas included:
 - Creating students groups to discuss social emotional concerns for students in need. Family & Children’s Agency currently is meeting with students at BMHS and NHS. Concern - where would this fit? Possibly during extended lunch block?
 - Asking students “Who are your trusted adults at Ponus?” within a student survey using google form.
 - Teachers creating bios about themselves (5-10 Facts You May Not Know About...) to share with students and post in their classrooms. This will help students make a connection to a teacher that has similar interests.
 - Incorporating Developmental Guidance programs at Ponus -- brainstorming about scheduling (challenge with block schedule) -- aligning with Health, P.E. etc. It would be a challenge to connect with students in Homeroom once a week since such a short period of time.

Action Items

- Joe G. will create a google form to send out to students for their feedback regarding what teacher(s) they feel most connected to. Amy J. will send sample survey questions to Joe G. they have used at FCA Aspire program. This form will include:
 - Teachers students feel most comfortable with. (3)
 - Why they feel so connected. (Possibly students can choose from a list of reasons, and then they can contribute their own thoughts if they would like to.)

An email will be sent to parents giving them information about the survey.

- Amy J. and staff from Family & Children's Agency (FCA) Aspire after school program can come to Ponus and pull students with specific needs for small group sessions. 2x/week; 45 minute blocks. Amy J. will discuss next steps with Dr. Lewis this week
Permission slips need to be sent out to parents regarding participation.
- Joe G. will create sample teacher biography asking for "5-10 Fun Facts You May Not Know About..." and discuss with Dr. Lewis before distribution.
- Dr. Lewis will meet with the guidance counselors exploring the possibility of them pushing into classrooms to teach social emotional learning - Rafael T. has the resources to begin this initiative.
- The SGC will explore Advisory Groups for 2019/2020

Middle School Sports and Activities

- There has been miscommunication about middle school sports. At November 2018 meeting there was clarification about having intramural sports and clubs at each middle school with a budget of \$2,000 per activity per semester.
- Beginning January 15 until March 15, Ponus will have:
 - 2 Sports
 - Basketball meets Tuesdays/Thursdays
 - Soccer meets Wednesdays
 - 3 Clubs
 - Chess Club
 - HW Club
 - Arts Club

Co-Chair Opening

- Linda Dragotta volunteered to take the Co-Chair position with assistance from all SGC members. She was unanimously voted in.
- Joe Giandurco is the Career Day Coordinator.
- Karen Cruz volunteered to be the SGC Election Coordinator.
- Ana Schlager volunteered to be the Ponus Hispanic Parent Group Liaison and will translate SGC minutes and other SGC communications to Spanish.

Action Items

- MJ C. will share all SGC documentation from prior years with Linda D. Also, she will assist with transition of new parent Co-Chair over the next few months.
- MJ C. will provide past SGC Election procedures with Karen C.
- MJ and/or Linda will send approved minutes to Ana for translation and then send final English and Spanish version to Dr. I to post on PRMS website.

Prepared by: Linda Dragotta and M.J. Chironna