



District Mission: To prepare all students for life-long learning

District Vision: We will:

- Exhibit an unconditional commitment to students.
- Provide an environment that is respectful and nurturing.
- Provide a high quality and challenging education in which all children succeed.
- Foster individual and collaborative creativity.
- Foster interdependence among all individuals in our community.
- Create an atmosphere of continual improvement and reflection.

Title: District 67 Emotional Wellness Committee

Date: December 1, 2011

Location: Seminar B

Time: 4:15-5:15

In attendance: Rebecca Leafman, Joe Malin, Lynn Moore, Ashley Ward, Kylie Kleinhans, Chrissy Banach, Sue Barkhausen, Liz Gaebler, Audrey Kluchka, Barb Binversie, Natalie Bolgrien, Jessie Urban, Anne Thomas, Anne Simons, Maureen Quaid, and guests Micaiah Robinson and Kim Croissant

I=Information A=Action D=Dialogue

Agenda Items

Person(s)

Code

The group spent the first part of the meeting processing the recent events in the district. There was discussion about concern areas and ways in which we can support the district in continuing to live by our character traits. We also discussed how now more than ever is a time to model and practice the traits we value and have felt a strong sense of this happening.

EW Warm Up

RL

A

An EW warm-up was shared this time via a handout.

Positive Words

All

I

In this meeting, positive words were folded into updates/announcements.

Updates/Announcements

All

I/D/A

EV-building mentors provided an Everett EW update. First, they shared they made staff wordles in November. Also, they shared plans regarding holiday cards and “awkward photos” as a fun activity for staff to participate. A primary goal is to work on keeping staff members happy and exciting during the holiday season. In terms of students, Everett hosted a Veteran’s Day Assembly on November 11. Also, all third and fourth graders are invited to join student council. The student council program is really starting to develop and students can choose different committees to take part.

Next, SH-building mentors provided a Sheridan update. They described the Playground Pals program, which has older students help younger students join in and find a group to play with or helps them organize teams and follow rules to games such as football during recess. The mentors included anecdotes suggesting a high level of student enjoyment and parent appreciation of the program. Also, they shared work regarding IOU’s created for staff and students (important, observable, and uniting behaviors that are linked to the character traits). This includes specific examples of behaviors that link

to each trait. Also, shark bites are now being implemented for both staff and students. This allows staff to catch one another and students doing positive things.

At CH staff is working on implementing the Bucket Filling Program and have created posters for what they see and what they want to see to promote a positive culture. Staff hosted a potluck lunch on the half day and have a Holiday Memories board in the lounge. There is also a "Fill a Stocking" for staff bucket filling, which is on display in the hallway for students to see. Bully Prevention efforts include staff promoting pro-social behaviors through gotchas, bucket filling, and character trait books/lessons. Staff is also implementing Bully Proofing Your School and Bully Blocker Curriculum in the classrooms. The EW Committee is working with the EW parents to create an anti-bullying handout for parents to become familiar with the language and strategies in the curriculum. Also they are looking into parent resources that align with the curriculum. The weekly Friday Flyer and APT monthly email will include an EW update and the building mentor may join the EW parent at an upcoming APT meeting.

Anne Simons from Quest Food Services shared positive news regarding the Sheridan kitchen staff: they are new to the Sheridan team this year and feel so welcome and integral. She also shared an anecdote regarding a student who shared he LOVES the kitchen staff because they ask him how he is doing.

The building mentors from Deer Path shared information regarding recent fund raising for The Association House. Also, a visiting author, Ben Mikaelson provided a very compelling message regarding his background, which included experiences with bullying and how he has grown over time to become who he is today. He shared the message that all students can write their own story. The staff activity fair is ongoing and includes many exciting opportunities for staff to pursue and enjoy their interests with fellow staff members (e.g., cooking, movies, golf, yoga, etc.). January begins a big push with some of our bully prevention lessons during advisory.

Karen Cunningham from LEAD distributed a flier detailing Parent University, which is a series of workshops this year. In Parent University, the theme is "Family Matters." This will be a year-long program, and was kicked off with Wendy Mogel. Karen also described several other events. This included the Youth Summit, which was held earlier this year at Lake Forest Hospital. At this event, it was revealed that the number one issue facing teens involves their feeling that they need to attain perfection. This has led to several ideas regarding ways to work with this issue with students and families. Also, she shared this is the third year in which a Middle School Series is occurring and provided a flyer with detailed information about the series of three workshops this winter.

Jessie Urban provided a CROYA update. At CROYA, it is largely business as usual, though staff are available and ready to listen and provide supports as needed. CROYA will also include a youth worker in the near future, which will open up many new possibilities for student supports. CROYA Youth Meetings at DPM during lunchtime, every two weeks, have been a big success.

Bully Prevention

KC/MR

I/D/A

Guest parents shared their stories and perspective on bully prevention and pro-social programming. They offered opportunities for improvement such as updating the EW website so parents can easily find information regarding policies as well as continuing to work on building a strong caring bystander group. Many good aspects of the DPM experience, but they felt there are some difficulties from a social perspective and will continue to partner with us as we look to reflect and continually improve and implement programming that directly aligns with district goals.

Reflection

RL/JM

I/D/A

meeting Dates:
Feb. 2, Seminar A
May 3, Seminar A

“Our words reveal our thoughts, our manners reveal our self-esteem, our actions reflect our character, and our habits predict the future.” ~William Arthur Ward