

Site Based Council Meeting Notes – 10/1/2014

Mac explained that Site Based Council is open to all interested caregivers, staff, students and community members. It functions through mutual respect and consensus. His hope is to have at least one caregiver from each of our four feeder schools: Caroline, Belle Sherman, Beverly J. Martin and Northeast.

The first Thursday of the month was chosen as the regular monthly meeting day, but this can be adjusted as necessary. Meetings can rotate to satellite locations such as Hasbrouck, Maplewood and GIAC. Ways of increasing participation in Site Based Council were brainstormed. The next meeting date is November 6, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Main Office Conference Room.

The question was posed, How many of our students do not have reliable computer and internet access at home and would benefit from being able to take a hard copy of the Blue Notes home. Answer: not known. As internet access can affect the sorts of homework assignments teachers can comfortably assign, Mac will look into ways of identifying gaps in this area.

The process of helping the new sixth graders learn lunchtime etiquette was described. 165 sixth graders converge on the cafeteria for a 30-minute lunch period every day. The two priorities students are currently working on are: walking, not running into the cafeteria; and putting chairs away five minutes before the end of the lunch period. When putting the chairs back into their four-to-a-table configuration proves difficult, students are not permitted to move chairs into flexible groupings the following day. Progress is being made, and as the year progresses and the students become more responsible, alternatives to eating in the cafeteria will gradually be added, such as drawing in the art room, eating in certain classrooms, dancing on the auditorium stage, and playing board games and foosball. Fridays there will be bingo in the cafeteria. Currently, eating outside on nice weather days is possible, as long as there is a staff person available to supervise.

Ways of increasing participation rates in the student directory were discussed. Mac will look into how the district's collection of student data can be used to this end, without compromising the district's recently instituted opt-in policy.

Mac will query parents and community members to donate supplies such as board games, ping pong tables, etc. Parents and caregivers can ask publishers, vendors, manufacturers to donate items such as Euro games and microphone headsets. A new member of the Site Based Council has successfully obtained these and other donations for another school.