

# MINUTES

## VIS Building Council

Date: January 23, 2017

Identify Conference Room or Location of Meeting: Room 164

Time: 7:45 AM

### Roles:

Facilitator: Lisa Shaw

Minutes: Gisela Armbruster

Time Keeper: Lauren Forget

Refreshments: Kevin Swartz

**Members:** Gisela Armbruster, Kim Bavis, Lauren Forget, Patty Hall, Rachel Lowe, Michele Maloney, Necia Marchetti, Carol Prescott, Lisa Shaw, Kevin Swartz

		Minutes
#	Topic/Subject	
<b>Opening</b>		
1	Welcome	
2	Approve minutes of 12/12/16	All Approve
3	Review Agenda	Sharing of additional thoughts re: HW, begin draft of HW policy for VIS
<b>Guest Presentation</b>		
4	None	
<b>Old Business</b>		
5	Sharing of additional thoughts/comments regarding HW from book reviews, parent/teacher conversations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● It was shared that after reading the books, it is apparent that the value of homework has changed. In her experience and conversations with other teachers, she has reported that homework for the sake of homework is not useful, however, there is the desire to promote responsibility in students as they move toward the Junior High.</li><li>● Kim Bavis, as well as several grade level colleagues, have been having greater success with assigning weekly homework as opposed to nightly homework.</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Another observation is that helping students to make small increases in their nightly reading has led to less anxiety over homework.</li> <li>● Parent input is looking at the big picture including all building district-wide to see the homework progression. Students also feel less anxiety when the focus is on trying rather than completing the homework. Ungraded homework assignments that focus on the effort rather than accuracy also lessen the stress on students. Parents also see weekly homework as very beneficial, as opposed to nightly.</li> <li>● Removing graded homework does not seem to have an impact on student engagement in the classroom.</li> <li>● Moving toward a reflection process regarding homework challenges seems to have value.</li> <li>● It was reported that parents also appreciate when teachers send a weekly homework communication.</li> <li>● Instrument practice requirements are another layer to homework expectations.</li> <li>● Concerns persist regarding the impact of homework on students living in poverty.</li> <li>● Kevin shared that at the recent Voice meeting parents shared that homework is the single biggest stressor for families.</li> </ul>
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**New Business**

6	<p>Engage in draft stage of HW policy for our building which would include:</p> <p>Introduction/Rationale</p> <p>Our Beliefs</p> <p>What Parents Can Expect</p> <p>What we Hope/Tips for Families</p>	<p>Draft ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kevin will work on the Introduction/Rationale</li> <li>● Core beliefs: We value the importance of independent reading, inspiring children to develop strong habits of reading and learning Homework impacts children in different ways Homework can be a valuable tool as long as it's aligned to best practices in education (extension, connections to learning)</li> <li>● What parents can expect: Homework should be constructive, not be punitive</li> <li>● What we Hope/Tips for Families Even if a child is not independently reading the text, books on tape or being read aloud to, are other valuable shared experiences. It's ok to differentiate homework. Homework should be given after guided practice has been administered. If a child reaches a frustration level with homework, that should be the point at which the homework is finished for the night. There are a variety of ways to access text:</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Download to a device</li> <li>-Books on tape</li> <li>-NYC public library account</li> <li>-Public library/OWL system</li> </ul> Develop habits of literacy- stop and jots, bookmarks Kids learn by example		
	2017-18 VIS Budget	Kevin provided overview of 2016-17 VIS building budget. No significant changes from 2016-17. Funds have been set aside to support ongoing Building Council initiatives including building beautification and development of counselor curriculum/lessons.		
<b>Closing</b>				
7	Review Assigned Tasks	Minute Taker	2 min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michele Maloney will send the draft document of the homework core beliefs for our building council to review.</li> <li>• Kevin will provide an update from the homework committee</li> </ul>
8	Set Agenda & Rolls For Next Mtg.	Facilitator	2 min	Notetaker- Lauren Time Keeper- Rachel Facilitator- Gisela Refreshments- Kim
9	Parking Lot Attendant	Facilitator	2 min	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.</li> <li>2.</li> </ol>
10	Round Table	All	4 min	

**Future Meeting Dates: List the dates of all meetings left to occur**  
 All future meeting will take place at 7:45am in VIS room 164.

2/27  
 3/20  
 4/24

5/22  
6/19