



NEW ALBANY - PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Citizen Advisory Committee- Student Belonging

November 9, 2023

NA Intermediate Community Room

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Citizen Advisory Committee for Student Belonging is to provide input to the Board and Administration on how to further engage parents in our school district to:

- Enhance school culture for ALL students; and,
- Create a strong sense of belonging for ALL students; and,
- Foster a school community environment of kindness, dignity and respect.

Committee Member	Title/Position	Present/Absent
Mark Wilson	Board Representative/Facilitator	Present
Lori Lofton	Assistant Superintendent/Co-Facilitator	Present
Coleen Barber	District Parent	Present
Deborah Cogan	District Parent	Present
Patrick Gallaway	Director of Communications / Committee Secretary	Present
Ann Gunzenhaeuser	District Parent	Present
Jon Hood	Director of Student Services, Safety and Security	Present
Diana Jacobs	District Parent	Present
Donna Jacobs	District Parent	Present
Ken Kraemer	NAHS Principal	Present
Kimberly Minor	Former District Parent	Present
Lorraine Pennyman	District Parent	Absent
Joe Quigley	District Parent	Present
Teresa Smith	NAPS Principal	Present
Gregory Walther	District Parent	Present
Jeremiah Wood	District Parent	Present



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Agenda

- I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mark Wilson
- II. Review and approve minutes
Minutes approved/accepted
- III. Re-Introductions/Getting to Know One Another
- IV. Norms and Meeting Standards
 - A. Public Board Committee meetings
- V. Reminder of committee purpose, outcomes
Mark Wilson shares his beginnings on the board and evolution to this committee work today. End goal of the committee is to provide recommendations to the Board (see October meeting minutes)
- VI. Why Student Belonging is Important. Continued from last meeting
Perceptions of last meeting (overview), explanation on what belonging means especially to students.

Discussion: Good to learn about work behind the scenes that parents do not always know. Appreciated learning about the real-life experiences that students have.

Introduction of excerpts from The Belonging Barometer tool by Mark Wilson.

Small group discussions on the reading passage. Committee members present shared elements that stood out to them.

- Classroom as a family concept.
- Having a conversation, breaking down barriers.
- Stress of not belonging and the effect on academic outcomes.
- One aspect of belonging for one group may shift it for another.
- May be an unrealistic goal that you will ever achieve 100% belonging.
- Time of day may impact the sense of belonging, friends or no friends in a class, etc. Help them break the day down into the micro-environments.



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- If grown-ups do not feel they belong in a community, how does it impact the kids' sense of belonging?
- Finding commonality among all the differences that kids bring to the table. Two sided street; What do you bring to the table to contribute and belong?
- Sense of self coming from a more diverse community, going to a community not as diverse, less of a sense of belonging.
- If you can't find that "Group", how do you find your place, friends, etc? Social media impacts.
- Sense of belonging is directly connected to health and well-being.
- 4% of our students report a sense of no belonging in our learning community.

VII. Survey Data - Presented by Asst. Superintendent Lori Lofton

- A. Student Belonging Surveys
- B. Staff Climate Surveys
- C. Parent Survey

Discussion and input from committee members:

- Need to define "trusted adult" for the group. Rather new term here. Who is the go to for a student for support? Someone who is there to support the student when they need them during the school day. Not always classroom teacher(s).
- Do we know what good looks like? Based on surveys, we are not going to see 100%. Have we identified this as a district? Good is continuous improvement.
- Data shared from Hanover (former survey vendor) and have said NAPLS has very good data in comparison to other districts around the country but they do not provide specific district data to other districts.
- Parent survey results differ in some areas from student results, can we identify a reason? All anonymous so not a direct analysis from within families. But building level analysis can be done.
- Are there measurable outcomes based on the survey results? Data supports our Board adopted Continuous Improvement Plan and building teams select areas of focus from staff and student surveys each year. Parent survey questions about belonging and kindness are new this year.
- "Just say hello" new program to get students to engage.



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Lori Lofton shared a Hanover slide with the “Five Ways to Improve School Climate” Committee is one of those ways; more parent and stakeholder engagement.

VIII. Principals/directors share out - **Tabled until December meeting**

- A. Common challenges we face
- B. Evidence of the problem
- C. What solutions we have used
- D. What is still a gap

IX. Identify needs for next meeting - none requested

X. Reminder of Next Meeting: December 14, 2023 from 6 - 7:30 pm. New Albany Intermediate School Community Room

XI. Adjourn

Mark Wilson Adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.