



NEW ALBANY - PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Citizen Advisory Committee- Student Belonging

December 14, 2023

NA Intermediate Community Rm

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	Absent
Deborah Cogan	District Parent	Present
Patrick Gallaway	Director of Communications / Committee Secretary	Present
Ann Gunzenhaeuser	District Parent	Absent
Jon Hood	Director of Student Services, Safety and Security	Present
Diana Jacobs	District Parent	Absent
Donna Jacobs	District Parent	Present
Ken Kraemer	NAHS Principal	Absent
Kimberly Minor	Former District Parent	Present
Lorraine Pennyman	District Parent	Present
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 6:03 p.m. by Mark Wilson
- II. Review and approve November meeting minutes
Unanimous approval
- III. Introductions; Name and Role
- IV. Norms and Meeting Standards posted
 - A. Public Board committee meetings
- V. Reminder of committee purpose, outcomes
At the end stage of the committee work, the goal will be to prioritize three to four tactics or strategies to recommend to the Board..
- VI. Principals/directors share out
 - A. Common challenges we face

Teresa Smith, Principal at New Albany Primary

We shared the Belonging Survey data with counselors and building administrators to unpack the results and selected two areas to focus on

- Do you feel you are an important part of this school? Ten percent said no. Do they understand the meaning of the word "important"? We do have a "Student Voice" box - where they can provide suggestions. For some this makes them feel like they play an important role. Others like the positive referrals, and teachers calling on them more in class
- Do I have friends to play with at recess? Three percent said they do not. We are introducing some new recess features for all students to have something to do, including an archaeology "dig" box, the soccer turf, and musical elements for students that like to sing.

Why do educators feel that recess is important?

Kids need activity and time to move, etc. We are establishing third grade ambassadors to help younger kids. Counselors provide strategies for kids



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to know how to connect with other kids

Is there a breakdown in the responses by grade level? And do we have that for grades 4-12 too?

Second grade had the most response of not feeling they belong. Lori will bring the 4-12 data by building to the January meeting.

Other examples provided of work in buildings included:

Video opportunities to be on camera is something that kids at the Intermediate School like and it creates a sense of belonging and importance for them. \RISE assemblies are also a feature that helps build community there.

Lori Lofton shared **High School Principal Ken Kraemer's** notes on high school results and discussion.

- Almost 16% of HS students indicate they are not participating in clubs, activities or athletics. There are currently 53 clubs at the high school. Each year, Fall Fest is the big recruitment event.

Are there any public schools that we know of that require a student to participate in one activity/sport, etc.?

Some private schools require this but we do not know of any public schools.

- 17% of HS students responded that they do not have a trusted adult
One area they are looking at is more equitable access to high quality senior seminar experiences as this relationship between the students and their "onsite advisors" is often very strong after many hours of working on their projects.
- Social media usage leading to more social isolation. Ramifications of social media later in life, college, etc.

Could there be something in the curriculum that ties into the social wellbeing and development of the students grades K-12? Yale University example of a course on Happiness. We do have digital citizenship



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programs and some introduction to appropriate use of technology etc.but maybe more could be done.

Jon Hood shared an example from the Intermediate School to equip students on how they can step forward to support or intervene with situations with other kids when they see unkind/inappropriate actions..

What grade level said they had the closest relationship with a teacher? More at the elementary level where students are with one teacher all day as opposed to the high school or middle school where they only spend 50 minutes or so with each teacher.

- VII. Updated Belonging Survey Data Fall 2023
Review of the slides from the December Board presentation shared by Lori Lofton
Kindness, dignity and respect could look different by grade; will disaggregate data by grade level for the January meeting.

Is there data from the 2019-20 school year or anything before COVID to see what kind of impact it had? There is some data that is aligned from the former surveys done through Hanover Research. Lori will bring relevant data to the January meeting.

- VIII. Review: The “How” to Improve Belonging

- IX. Activity: Identify Gaps in Culture/Climate
Breakout into two groups to brainstorm ideas where there are gaps/opportunities.

Group One:

- Avoid Divisiveness; Teach what it is
- Inclusivity tolerance Being inclusive to viewpoints and beliefs that are in direct conflict.
- Root Cause
- Engaging Stakeholders
- How do we merge community with school
 - Ex: PTO's, Healthy New Albany, Maybe a Workshop Series; Social Emotional Awareness



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Group Two:

- Training for faculty & staff, helping them better understand the identities of students.
- Finding time for educational opportunities regarding belonging
- How to make smaller groups, like the former House system at the high school, was it successful? Did it create more of a community?
- Think about partner group products
- How might we create long-term strategies for belonging?

X. Reminder of Next Meeting: January 11, 2024 from 6 - 7:30 pm. New Albany Intermediate School Community Room

XI. Adjourn

Mark Wilson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.