



NEW ALBANY - PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Citizen Advisory Committee- Student Belonging

January 11, 2024

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	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	Present
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
Mark Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- II. Review and approve December meeting minutes
Approval of minutes from December
- III. Norms and Meeting Standards posted
 - A. Public Board committee meetings
- IV. Reminder of committee purpose, outcomes
Mark reminded the committee that we may have Big Picture goals, we will work to narrow them down.

Have not determined when these recommendations will go to the Board at a scheduled Regular Board Meeting.

- V. Follow Up from December meeting
 - A. Student Belonging Survey Data disaggregated by building and including past years' data which was requested by committee members in December.

Asst. Supt. Lofton shared that the number of participants in the survey results were fairly high and consistent from year to year and with Hanover surveys from past years so we can compare responses to some extent. The Hanover SEL survey focus was about "me" as in the student. Shift now is about "how I feel about things in my school," "what I see happening", etc. So that has changed somewhat.

Director Jon Hood shared that there are some recurring themes we hear from conversations with students. Is it important for the bus driver to know my name; Am I invited to birthday parties?



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Discussion from committee: Some students do not understand social skills for various reasons.

The burden to teach how to treat others and social skills should not rest on just parent/family. How do we teach kids how they should treat each other? Facilitating interpersonal relationships between students. It will get harder as the kids get older. Perfectionism is impossible.

B. Aligned historical data from Hanover Social Emotional Learning Survey

- VI. ACTIVITY: Funneling ideas into priorities, themes and broad areas for recommendations
What are some common themes, What are the needs that we have been addressing?

Before beginning, Mark Wilson shared two pages from a recent Surgeon General's report "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation" that committee member Dr. Deborah Cogan sent him. It's timely for this report and this committee to be assembled and demonstrates that this is a national conversation. Mark also provided the cover page so members could look up the full report if interested.

Group 1: Jeremiah, Ken, Coleen, Lorraine, Deborah, Joe
Priorities Greatest Need/Impact

- Belonging Curriculum
As teachers and parents we can all play a role, let's find other experts that could help set up a curriculum that could be incorporated into classes, etc. Use that to help teach and develop a community of belonging. The more expert type of help we can bring into the issue the better. Bring in the experts to help staff, students and parents.
- Eighth Grade Bus Groups
Kids assigned to a group, using the DC bus example. Switching up the lunch room is another way gives everyone a group that they are part of, similar to the old House system at the high school.

Group 2: Greg, Ken, Teresa, Kimberly and Donna

- Doing well overall based on proof of the data,



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Diversity of population. October Stronger Together - Student Belonging. Diverse amount of stakeholders Israeli/Hamas Supt message example, community impressions etc.

- Find the Root Cause (why?), Desired outcome.
Explore the root cause of why students may not be getting along with others (home life situations, etc) What is the problem we are trying to solve?

Discussion

Desired outcome means something different to each person. What could increase a sense of belonging for one might decrease it for others.

Perspective of outside experts potentially having a bias was raised as a concern.

Mark reminded the members we are looking for high level things with suggestions for action steps.

- VII. Reminder of Next Meeting: February 8, 2024 from 6 - 7:30 pm. New Albany Intermediate School Community Room. It was proposed and agreed that we will revise this to be 6 - 8 pm to ensure we have ample time for discussion at our final meeting.
- VIII. Adjourned at 7:45 p.m. by Mark Wilson