NEW ALBANY - PLAIN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Citizen Advisory Committee- Student Belonging

February 8, 2024
NA Intermediate Community Rm
6 pm - 8:00 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	Absent
Patrick Gallaway	Director of Communications / Committee Secretary	Absent
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	Absent
Lorraine Pennyman	District Parent	Present
Joe Quigley	District Parent	Present
Teresa Smith	NAPS Principal	Present
Gregory Walther	District Parent	Present
Jeremiah Wood	District Parent	Absent

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Agenda

I. Call to order

Mark Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

II. Review and approve January meeting minutes
Approval of Minutes from January

III. Norms and Meeting Standards posted
   A. Public Board committee meetings

IV. Reminder of committee purpose, outcomes

Mark - Reminder that we are making recommendations for the board to consider how they enhance culture and kindness, dignity and respect. It's a marathon, not a sprint and it's important to run even if it is a long race, not just staying at the starting line.

Joe asked if committee members would be presenting to the board or if Mark would present. Board President Kalinosky will determine the final process but Lori will present potentially at the February 26 meeting as Mark is unable to present to the board as a member of the Board.

Ann asked if there would be a discussion only among the board about this topic? Yes, this is not a public participation session, but a regular board meeting. This would be an initial presentation and then will likely be revisited at a future meeting. Board may reach out to members of this group if they have questions and vice versa.

Ann shared an example of the current work at the NAIS on Feb 7. Administrators had a KDR lunch for kids who exemplified KDR (one from each wing) Parents were able to attend this pizza party where kids received recognition/certificate. Ann felt that this was impactful.

Ken shared that they similarly recognize Distinguished Eagle at HS. Students nominated by staff and five students are chosen each quarter. Geron Tate, Michael Carr and Pat Samanich lead this work.

Lori addressed concerns raised last meeting about building a belonging curriculum with an expert's input. There are already some pieces in place with school counselors' curriculum including relationship building, social skills,etc that can be found on the website. We don't build as much time for this in the upper grades. Counselors and mental health experts on staff are excellent resources, if this group wants to tap into their expertise in this work and not rely as heavily on outside resources.

Ken added that the counseling curriculum at secondary level does not include soft skills but primarily focuses on career development. Two programs in place at HS to help fill this gap are ROX and Driven. Students are invited into these groups to build these necessary skills. This is something that we can capitalize on going forward.

Jon shared that there is legislation recently passed in the state on social inclusion and helping to address connection. For example the program at MS, "Just say Hello" is in response to this.

Joe asked if legislation includes funding for staff development on this?
Donna also asked if it was state or federal legislation? All grades?

Ken - State of Ohio HB 123. By nature of language it is likely to be 6-12.

Lori - There is a companion bill that deals with this issue at lower grades. Neither funded directly but the Governor does support mental health and wellness in his budgets in a general way to date.

Diana shared that her daughter is involved with Sources of Strength. Good experience and touches on all of this.

Ken -This is part of the legislation and will include trusted adult training this spring. We underwent training by the national organization this summer. "Coach Beyond" is another

program focused on coaches and sport team captains. Monthly meetings led by OSU. Curriculum on development and leadership.

V. ACTIVITY: Review/Revise draft recommendations document
Lori shared the following guidelines for the activity:

- Review the three draft recommendations on the handout. Use sticky notes to:
  - Pose questions on yellow
  - Suggest revisions on orange
    - Consider ambiguous language
    - Does the recommendation maintain the intent of the original discussion
  - Suggest additional action steps or resources on blue
- Circulate to the three draft recommendations around the room and add your sticky notes to the appropriate chart, specifically next to the item related to your question/suggestion

Next step:

- Use dots to vote for each recommendation, description, action step and recommended resource including those newly added or revised on sticky notes. We are looking for
  - Consensus on number of recommendations
  - Consensus on wording
  - Consensus that the recommendation is likely to positively impact a sense of belonging in our school community

Next step: Finalize Recommendations

- Identify items that have agreement/consensus based on number of dots
- Discuss items without clear agreement. Are there suggested modifications that make it more agreeable?

- Recommendation 1: Root Cause
  - What happens if the Board approves? Board would have the superintendent put the action into place engaging a variety of administrators, teacher leaders and staff.

- Will we seek community connections - could add PTOs, other parent resources, the Board could talk about it at a Board meeting
- Add one or two other resources to share
- This can be described as the “why”

- Recommendation 2: Belonging Curriculum
  - Suggested addition: Add another action step on seeking input from parents and community members?
  - How do we feel about developing a “Curriculum?” Is that the right word? The thought behind this was to make the belonging work intentional.
  - How do we get parents to attend evening sessions and engage?
  - How do we engage unbiased experts?
  - Discussion on the need to find the why before we try and solve a problem since we are unaware of what our problem may be.
  - After considerable discussion regarding not knowing the root cause, the use of outside consultants and the term “curriculum,” consensus was not reached as written and this recommendation will not be proposed to the Board. Elements of this that did have consensus were condensed into the other recommendations.

- Recommendation 3: Student Engagement Programs in Each Building
  - Change title: to “Students Engaging with Students”
  - Add peer mentors
  - Consider elements of house system
  - Use bus groups - for example students in same grades, on the same bus to engage at school throughout the year, e.g. monthly lunch.
  - Removing “change the lunch seating” as this is difficult enough at MS/HS
  - Conduct an inventory of current programs where kids are socializing and related to student belonging, recognize gaps and leverage existing opportunities.

VI. Next Steps - Finalize written recommendations and present to the Board
Lori does not expect significant changes to be made based on the consensus version at the end of the meeting. Will send out the final version electronically to all committee members; Send all questions/suggestions to Lori and Mark.

VII. Adjourned at 8:10pm by Mark Wilson

NOTE: Following the final meeting of the committee the minutes were approved by members via email, including a recommended amendment. Three members abstained due to being absent from the February meeting.