

Climate Survey Sub-Committee

January 29, 2019

Present: M. Puma, N. O'Connor, R. Ramesh, L. Beckford, N. Ishmael, R. Antonetti, P. Brogan, S. Gould, M. O'Neill

Discussion centered on PCSD participation in the Spring Pilot 3 of the US Department of Education school climate survey. Survey has been adopted by NYS Education Department for deployment in all districts across NYS during the 2019-2020 school year.

Pilot 3 is schedule for the Spring of 2019 and has targeted 100 school districts for participation. Monroe county districts scheduled to participate in the pilot are Wheatland, Spencerport and East Rochester. Opportunity exists for PCSD to join this pilot. (Pilot 1 had 30 participating districts and Pilot 2 had 70.)

Purposes of pilot are to develop best practices for survey administration and to facilitate school climate improvement.

Concerns expressed were: short-time frame to prepare for the Spring Pilot and significant activities within the schools, particularly the high schools, during the Spring e.g. one more thing to add to a busy time.

Survey would be processed by 3rd party vendor(s), but data would be owned by PCSD.

Critical question was whether PCSD would be advantaged by participating in the pilot vs. waiting for the full deployment of the same survey in the 2019-2020 survey. Advantages of participation are having quicker access to data from all key stakeholder groups across the district and the ability to begin to develop and deploy action plans to address challenges/opportunities and to better leverage those key strengths with PCSD.

In order to make this data more meaningful, we identified a need for enhanced demographic data in the following areas: sex, religion, disability, etc. These additional data elements would facilitate analysis of responses to questions 40-43.

The other need is for a comprehensive communication plan which addresses the following: what is the purpose; why survey is important; what is the role of the participants; how the survey output will be used; how confidentiality will be maintained; participation is voluntary, but very much needed; survey timeframe etc...

Other discussion items were:

School identifiers and survey intro comments are included in the survey

Explore with BOCES the ability of parents to take the survey more than one time based upon having multiple students within the system. Requests has already been raised.

Recommendation is to proceed with participation in the pilot on the condition that enhanced demographics are enabled and that a comprehensive communication plan is developed.

Submitted by: Bill Castle