

Equity Task Force Meeting Minutes  
August 6, 2018  
C.W. Stanford Middle School Media Center

Present: Jean Bolduc, Kiley Brown, Sherita Cobb, Patricia Coleman, Emily Elstad, Maggie Holly, Jason Johnson, Victoria Mattison, Phyllis Portie-Ascott, Kay Singer, Latandra Strong, Todd Wirt, Engaging Schools Facilitators M.J. Austin (On site) and Carol Lieber (Skype).

AGENDA

Activity – Reflect and Connect - participants selected and shared with the group a picture postcard that reflects one behavior / social skill students demonstrate to be good students and good citizens.

Essential Question – What recommendations for revisions to the Code of Conduct and disciplinary and student support practices will serve each and every student effectively and equitably and meet the multiple interests of all stakeholders?

Outcomes -

- Consensus about title of the Code
- Identification of key phrases and statements that reflect vision and goals
- Recommendations for Introduction section of the Code
- Recommendation for Rights and Responsibilities section of the Code

Discuss and Agree on a Title for the Code

Activity – individual tables discussed suggested titles with Ms. Austin reviewing 3 final suggestions:

1. Code of Cooperation, 2. Code of Character, Conduct, and Student Support and 3. Charter of Character, Conduct and Support (or Student Support). This will be revisited at a future meeting.

Identify Language that Reflects Vision and Goals

Committee members reviewed written data compiled of comments from conversations with the Task Force, Principals and Assistant Principals, individually highlighting key words, phrases, or statements desired for inclusion in the revised Code. Each table summarized highlights from all members that Ms. Austin will summarize and bring back to a future meeting. Thought processes included: goal for discipline; interest behind revising the code; what a Code of Conduct would do for teachers, parents, students, and schools.

Explore, Discuss, and Make Recommendations about Introduction Section – Committee members reviewed introductions from Syracuse and Wheatland-Chili marking edits, suggestions and additions to be compiled by the facilitator for further review at a future meeting.

Discuss District vs. School expectations and need for both school rules and expectations – Committee members reviewed Rules vs. Expectations looking at a sample school rules list and a sample matrix looking for key differences: detail, private vs. public, micromanaging, language, are rules enforceable, etc.

Explore, discuss, and make recommendations about Rights and Responsibilities section – Committee members reviewed Rights and Responsibilities of School Stakeholders selecting phrases and statements deemed essential, selections then shared with the Ms. Austin.

Ms. Austin reviewed items completed during the meeting and remaining items that will be continued at the next meeting of the Task Force. Next steps reviewed included: meeting dates for remaining sessions 4-8, convening a student support think tank in the fall and scheduling a vetting session with all principals mid way through the remaining sessions.

Meeting Minutes - Co-chair Sherita Cobb reviewed the process to be used for reviewing previous meeting minutes and all future meeting minutes by the full committee. Going forward, minutes will be sent to the full committee on Wednesday following Monday evening meetings. Adjusted changes will be made as needed on Thursday with minutes posted to the web site on Friday.

Upcoming meeting dates - August 20, September 4 and 17, October 1 and 15.

Writing Committee - Co-chairs Sherita Cobb and Kay Singer discussed possibly of instituting a writing committee to begin the policy draft process with the writing committee bringing their work to the full Task Force in October, 2018. The writing committee will be appointed by the co-chairs.

The meeting was adjourned.

Recorded by: Patricia Coleman