

## EWG Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2019; 9am; Angier School

Present: Kerry Prasad, Kathy Smith, Maggie Schmidt, Kathy Shields, Andrea Steenstrup, Orla Higgins-Averill, Christine Dutt (call-in)

### Roles and Responsibilities

Aggregating Survey Information **Maggie**

- *One spreadsheet of short responses*
- *Google word form for long responses that do not lend themselves to a spreadsheet format*

Corresponding with Carol Stockdale about email **Andrea**

Monitoring *gmail.com* and responding **Andrea**

Forwarding *newton.ma.us* email to the EWG **Kathy**

*We are having trouble getting email; only internal people are getting emails to this address but it goes to first class in a Working Group Folder; you have to look for it.*

Keep minutes, have them approved and posted on web **Kerry**

Remind PTO Treasurers to complete surveys **Christine**

Remind PTO Board Members to complete surveys **Andrea**

### Review of meeting minutes for tonight's School Committee Meeting (3/25/19)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rVq50zZ3mrCP9GDyCesbinRnnhVSOmgP/view>

#### A. Recommended Changes to Equity Guidelines

*The Equity Committee recommends that the section of the Guidelines relating to PTO spending on technology be amended in two discrete ways:*

*1. We recommend that the cap on technology spending be raised from \$15 per pupil, to the greater of \$20 per pupil, or the cost of one cart of Chromebooks, whichever is greater for a particular school. This change is recommended so that smaller schools would be able to fund at least the purchase of a cart of Chromebook computers if they would not be able to do so based solely on the per pupil cap.*

*2. We recommend that a sentence be added to the Guidelines which would permit a PTO who does not spend the full amount of its per pupil technology cap in one year, to roll the balance of that amount over to fund technology purchases in the next school year. For example, if a PTO were permitted to spend \$20 per pupil multiplied by 400 pupils in Fiscal Year 2020 (for a total of \$8,000), but only spent \$3,000 of that amount in FY 2020, that PTO would be able to spend a maximum of \$13,000 on technology purchases in FY 2021 (assuming their enrollment remained at 400 students). The amount of any roll over of allowable technology spending will be documented on the Elementary Equity Spreadsheet. This change is recommended to align with many PTOs' practices of fundraising for technology, and to allow PTOs to aggregate funds from multiple years to make larger purchases.*

*The Equity Committee recommends these changes be incorporated into the Equity Guidelines no later than July 1, 2019.*

### Review of PTO Treasurers and PTO Board surveys

There are not enough responses yet

Once we have more responses and aggregate the data we will:

each review the data individually and see what themes emerge

come together as a group and share our impressions and the themes we have identified

Plan questions for broader community survey- We are not ready to do this yet; We need feedback from PTO Treasurer and Board Surveys to inform the community survey

### **Outline of topics we want to cover in April 24 report to School Committee**

Possible topics

- 1) research on equity programs and/or pooling in other school districts                      Andrea
- 2) history of equity guidelines and changes over time in Newton                                      Kathy
- 3) feedback from principals; \*\*                                                                                      Orla
- 4) feedback from focus groups,                                                                                      Kathleen
- 5) feedback from PTO surveys,
- 6) feedback from community surveys,
- 7) outline of potential options for pooling and the pros and cons of each

\*\*Feedback from principals was collected on Equity Committee side, Kathy will share with the EWG; Kathleen will gather info from principals who have not yet filled it out

### **Next meeting:**

Monday, April 8

9:00-10:00

Underwood

Plan for April 8 meeting:

Bring drafts of topic summaries

Read the survey responses and prepare themes, reflections and ideas