Feb 25, 2025 | FTB School Council Meeting

Attendees: Kristin Fish, Kelly Garbarino, Lindsay Rescott, Jamie Sokolowski, Olivia Perez, Shannon Haley, Holly Curtis,

Notes

- Recap Global Play Day 2/7:
    - Well received by students, teachers and parents
    - Parent questions about what is appropriate to bring to school
    - Positive choices were made
    - Positive home school connection
    - Holly shared there were no students in distress that day
- **Handbook Review: Attendance Letter, Attendance Language in Handbook**
    - Holly Curtis spoke about district task force, led by Nick Markos (tasked by DESE)
    - Bresnahan has difficulty due to developmental level of students
    - Holly explained we are bound by the DESE mandate - 7 days is considered excessive
        - District has determined 5 days is appropriate to send a heads up
    - *DESE does not discriminate between excused or unexcused*
    - No punitive action from Bresnahan
    - Kelly asked if letter is written by DESE?
        - Holly said its a similar format, district and school have edited
    - So far 200 students have surpassed the 7 day threshold
    - Kristin asked if excused or unexcused does not matter, do we need a note?
        - If there are no consequences, why send a letter?
        - If there are consequences as the kids get older, it makes sense to be aware
    - Kelly suggested a Bresnahan cover letter to the letter with more developmental information
        - Aiming for clarity and clear communication

Action items

- ☐ Read page 15 of handbook on attendance language
- ☐ Reword so messaging is clear and user friendly
- ☐ Align letter and handbook messaging