

Sippican School Council
Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024

Attendance:

- In attendance: Lynn Dessert, Gregory Thomas, Kristina Callina, Barbara Moody, Ashley O'Brien, Ashley Sweatland, Amanda LeMarier, Kate Excellent, Anna Ward (virtual), Melissa Rogers (virtual), Erica Prien (virtual)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Behavioral Support Staff at Sippican: School psychologist, BCBA, school adjustment counselor
2. Question: are students allowed to send in food?
 - a. Unclear, Lynn and Gregory going to get clarification in coordination with new nurse
 - b. Store bought snacks okay, homemade snacks might require extra permission or confirmation of allergies
3. Student handbook changes primarily to align Sippican handbook across district
 - a. Name changes throughout including new school psychologist, new adjustment counselor, new special education teacher; to be added, in process of hiring another paraprofessional
 - b. Changes to bus arrival/dismissal routines
 - c. District wide change: open-toed shoes discouraged
 - d. Smartwatches policy added to the cell phones
 - e. Library books opt-out language added (alignment with district)
 - f. Testing and grading dates updated
 - g. Updated bullying prevention language adopted by joint school committee last year
 - h. Added Massachusetts general law
 - i. Added district policy regarding discipline and behavioral intervention
4. School improvement plan
 - a. To be presented Thursday to the School Committee
 - b. Sippican School Council is already familiar with School Improvement Plan
 - c. Transitioning from one-year (2023-2024) plan to multi-year (2024-2026) plan
 - i. New plan allows for gradual roll-out of strategic initiatives so that 2026 outcomes (SMART Goals) can be achieved
 - ii. For example, Strategic Initiative 1.3 Elementary Curriculum Leader position on hold pending budget approvals (placeholder for 2025 or beyond)
 - iii. Portrait of a Graduate will have implications for strategic initiatives
 - d. Strategic Objective: Support Systems
 - i. RTI = Response to Intervention
 - ii. Social-emotional curriculum (responsive classroom) planning to be rolled out called Fly Five SEL, <https://www.flyfivesel.org/>

- iii. Once school adjustment counselor and school psychologist are trained in Fly Five, perhaps there will be some teachers opting in to partnering with behavioral support staff and piloting the curriculum in their classroom
 - e. Strategic Objective: Climate and culture
 - i. School administration has partnered with music in the morning
 - ii. "3 to B" - Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind - discussing expected behaviors and calling out good works
 - iii. Efforts to promote Sippican spirit through climate and culture such as with 3 to B, new tshirts
 - f. Strategic Objective: Safety
 - i. RAPTOR: license scans for people entering the building, has been glitchy in the past but working through it
 - ii. Practicing
 - iii. Go Guardian (software that allows school to monitor students on school devices)
- 5. Changes to academic schedule are a result of aligning School Improvement Plan with school day activities
- 6. VASE updates
 - a. Camp Burgess planning kicking off
 - b. Car Wash on September 28th
 - c. Halloween party coming up
 - d. Book fair coming up
- 7. School Updates
 - a. Great open house!
 - b. Kindergarten orientation went well
 - c. Sippican is now a Feinstein Leadership Academy - opportunity for Sippican to receive grants in the form of stipends.
 - i. Funding provided once school shows proof of activities related to community service
 - ii. Aligns with existing Sippican activities/programs such as Kindness Crew, Project 351
 - iii. Money is used for student activities, field trips, new materials, etc.
 - iv. Each kid gets a card that has some benefits for local activities like Mystic Aquarium
- 8. Question about "Enrichment"
 - a. Students had previously been receiving accelerated math, reading, science, etc. from Mrs. Lawrence called Enrichment
 - b. Schedule change to hopefully streamline schedule and meet individual student needs
 - c. Teachers now have PLC (Professional Learning Communities) - where they coordinate and decide which kids will get which targeted level of support
 - d. Mrs. Lawrence won't be doing the small-group Enrichment as it's been done in the past, instead kids will be getting acceleration from one of their specialist or regular teachers during Flex Block

- i. Data-driven decisions being made to identify kids who need intensive support, targeted support, acceleration, enrichment
 - ii. Rolling out likely first week of October
 - e. At the end of the year, Lynn and Gregory will be looking to gather input from teachers about what worked and didn't work in terms of schedule changes
- 9. Picture day in October!
- 10. All-school meetings - still happening!
 - a. One happened first week of school, monthly all-school meetings are being planned, some of them might be in the morning or could happen at the end of the day
 - b. The all-school meetings will be communicated to parents when they're scheduled
- 11. Lynn and Gregory did learning walk with Superintendent yesterday, planning to do more classroom observations
 - a. School safety and recess/lunch monitoring has been main priority, Sippican lost a monitor this year and there's no budget to replace