

CRLS School Council: May 27, 2014

Damon Smith, principal
Greta Hardina, liaison
Janet O'Reilly, teacher
Jen McConnell, teacher
Craig Kelley, parent
Bob Birnbaum, parent
Teresa Walker, parent
John Delancey, parent
Rowan Murphy, parent
Emily Dexter, parent
Fran Cronin, parent
Trina Abbott, parent
Hae Kyung Chung, parent
Agnes Mfayokurera, parent
Mike Frutkoff, community

School Council Elections

2 nominations are in; 1 position is still open (possibly Learning Community L)

Are there any community partners that are interested?

- Perhaps Workforce since meetings are going to be at Jefferson Park from March to June
- Perhaps Community Health at Windsor Clinic

School Council By-Laws

Adam and John borrowed liberally from other regional High School by-laws

They reviewed the state requirements from Mass Dept. Elem. & Secondary Education (DESE)

It is noted that parity between parents and teachers is not in sync with DESE

It is noted that reps from other CRLS groups are not present at meetings

Where should FOCA, FOCRLS, CPAC and Arts Committee share out?

Damon needs by-laws to be reviewed and endorsed by Legal Counsel

Could this be done now and by-laws voted on at June Council meeting?

How long are terms for Officers?

A suggestion having Co-Chair elections yearly

Is it possible to have alternate meeting time?...in particular to promote more faculty participation

There should be a Community Partner with voting privileges but how to decide?

Next year there will hopefully be preset agenda topics

Perhaps split time during Council meetings between nonvoting and voting issues

Should reps perform outreach to their respective learning communities?

What is the process to bring issues to the Council?

Co-Chairs set the agenda so people should contact them with any issues to be discussed

What is the relationship between the School Council and the Faculty Advisory Group?

The Faculty Advisory Group focuses on faculty issues

It took two years of active effort to get five teachers to commit to the School Council

Could faculty receive a stipend?

Guidelines should be developed for parent reps

Send any comments regarding by-laws to Adam and John

School Improvement Plan

Discussed Mission Statement, Motto, and Wes Moore initiative

Higher expectations tied to Motto and Wes Moore book

Is it a way of thinking or developing standards?

Damon says it is very curricular-based but also includes student attitudes, readiness, and behaviors

Not having a clear mission statement has had an adverse effect regarding discipline

How will implementation occur regarding student skills and teacher perceptions?

Four professional development strands: increase technology skills, develop literacy across curriculum, meet needs of diverse learners, develop multiple ways to showcase student learning

Question beliefs and assumptions (both explicitly and implicitly)

Students in CP classes need to change their perspectives

Many believe it is cultural and we should see how our past influences how we interact with others

Are our practices a mismatch between teachers and students?

HN and AP may start out diverse but during Drop/Add period students start opting out of them

When students encounter difficulty, how should we respond?

Lack of resiliency is evident in a lot of students

CP classes offer lots of support to help students become better; why isn't the same offered in HN or AP?

A request for more untracked options and resources at high school

There should be classes that bridge the gap from an A student in CP to F student in HN

NEASC wants a document reflecting revised Core Values and Mission Statement

Emily reports that she thinks the Mission Statement review process is 75 to 80 percent done

12 members in the committee representing administration, faculty, parents, and students

NEASC says that for every adverb/adjective there must be a way to measure it

Council Mission Statement Comments

A voice admiring the Falcon graphic

Motto should not just be for students but everyone

Like the action words (Pursue, Embrace, Live)

Replace "Acquire" and "Value" with more active words

Change "just society" to "will be prepared for college and career readiness."

Include concepts of risk taking, going against type, being out of comfort zone

Understand idea of "doing your best work" and use "realize potential"

Give the same acclaim to arts and academics

Explore your talents (arts and sports)

Opportunity means explore what you don't know and excel what you are good at doing

Have more students read over document and make sure they understand the language

Present learning opportunities for self-growth and talent

Are you doing your best to take advantage of what CRLS has to offer?

Open Forum Issues

Media Café offers vegetarian lunch options that African Americans don't often choose

Concern about academic eligibility rules for athletics (keep GPA of 70)

Dress code consequence could be wearing "ugly" shirt at school

Perhaps include students in discussion of dress code requirements

Next meeting: June 17th. Final meeting for 2013-14 academic year.