

Agenda for next meeting on December 15, 2016:

Members Present: Frank Pomponio, Lucero Montoya, Adam Reiter, Theresa McCorquodale, Melisa Monteon, Frank Pomponio, Kit Hinders, Terri Porter, Karen Mortimer, Karen Herbert, Lukas Lopez-Jensen, Tanya Tribelhorn, Mateo Pardo, and Orah Fireman

1. Public Comment
 - a. Non Binding Interview: DCIS teachers/staff can interview students coming into DCIS. This will allow for staffs/teachers to discuss with parents and students expectations at DCIS. The goal is to improve school culture.
 - b. Resources to services students: In the past as a school we have not advocated for resources within the district for support. A suggestion is to use parents and student voice to speak to the district.
 - c. Undocumented Students: Need more parent signatures on the petition in partnership with DCIS Fairmont
 - d. Growing pains with in the school. Learning how to be inclusive vs. exclusive and getting more supports and resources to help with that.
 - e. Middle School Culture: driving and building up the culture of the middle school students.

2. Equity with Austerity (how to support all of our students in a post application process world)/School Culture
 - a. We need resources such as attendance phone calls that can become overwhelming for teachers.
 - b. Look at the district for support regarding budget and funding to support students and staff/teachers.
 - c. How can we use our upperclassmen to mentor middle school students. This issue belongs to students too, not just administration 6th graders to help support with
 - d. Student council has been working with certain 6th graders to help support with behavior, academic, and social support.
 - e. Many of our new teachers are middle school teachers. In the past all teachers taught middle school and high school. This allowed for teachers and students to get to know each other. This would mean no common planning for teachers of the same grade level.
 - f. What type of classroom management exists and how are teachers and new teachers being taught classroom management skills? What type of professional development exist for all teachers? From a teacher's perspective, it is important to build relationships. Other discussions were about what type of resources exist to help support in and out of the classroom.
 - g. New teachers, they have mentors within the building but there is no time with in the schedule to allow for this. Mr. Hinders, as a new teachers, he feels that with time teachers will find their stride. Relationship and engagement is key to help with in the building. New teachers have support, but we could get better at it, especially with our 7th grade teachers.

- h. Next steps: community shift with the application was not planned for. Was not Theresa's idea and was done without teacher/student/parent consent. Town Hall meeting in January to discuss culture and how we move forward.
- 3. Preliminary priority discussions for budget (include work from last year's priority work and look at how it aligns to our current data)
 - a. Budget starts with projected enrollment. We lost over 100,000 dollars due to the projected numbers. Something that was asked last year was to have all 8th graders to go through the choice system.
 - b. This year, every current 8th grader needs to complete a choice study form. If you however pick DCIS as a second choice, you have a spot but there is the possibility of students coming and leaving DCIS.
 - c. Last year budget issues: funding was reduced all through DPS, we also lost 16 students, concurrent enrollment budgeting, and requirements changed.
 - d. This year: we need to prioritize what are the needs are. It needs to be a collaborative discussion and collaboration.
 - e. Open discussion: discussion between the dean vs. administrative assistant
 - 1. Dean- focus on restorative justice and discipline; would like the focus to be more culture focused based.
 - 2. AA- in some schools they are SALs, supporting the staff, teacher evaluation, etc.
 - f. Consideration: having a part time paraprofessional who could manage the testing and surveying piece.
 - g. Last year's budget: large amount of money is spent on teacher budget. There is an equity issue with class size. The world language department sees this issue at the higher levels. Would like to retain students from 8th to 9th and this could possibly help with world languages.
- 4. Strategies for improving parent engagement
 - a. Thoughts for how to involve parents more
 - b. PTSA guests Terri and Karen share their efforts around the DCIS app, Reminders,
 - c. Discussion was done informally a few years ago for start time feedback, in addition to PTSA survey sent out via IC. Currently, IC and PTSA and app are how surveys are being distributed.
 - d. When looking at parent engagement, fewer parents are returning surveys year to year.
 - e. Suggestions: individual contact from teachers/staff to parents for the town hall meeting and parent surveys. Belief is that teacher communication would be key, but also have a discussion of the survey results. This can be done in a meeting and also have them published. In the past, you could get more surveys from the district.
 - f. Looking at the spring, to have a meeting to discuss the results.
 - g. Conferences: look at switching parent conferences to October and student led conferences in Spring. And/or try having parent conferences during the daytime instead of at night

- h. IC and Schoology, makes it challenging to see the progress of your student. Would like to see one way to know what is due and upcoming. If this is done immediately, parents and students will have an idea of what is due or coming up.
- i. Per Mr. Pomponio, look at parents as a resource to help with supervision, monitoring, helping teachers in the classroom with Spanish speaking. Such as every parent dedicates one day a semester to be in the classroom to help. Be a school of parent engagement. Create options for parents such as Hall duty helpers, lunchroom helpers, classroom assistance. Could be a Google Doc tracked by PTSA for parent volunteers to choose where they would like to volunteer.

Homework

- Before the next meeting, would like the team to think about what would need to be cut in order improve the school and school culture.

5. Agenda for next meeting on January 19, 2016:

1. Budgeting
2. Choice of study: AP Classes
3. Imaginarium & Next Steps on Culture.