

Meeting Notes
September 2nd School Council

Attendees:

- Barry Wanger
- Susan Nemetz
- Lisa Rucinski
- Tom Lee
- Chip DiMarco
- Bob Parlin
- David Deutsch
- Marci Sapers
- Joel Stembridge

Barry and Susan, the council co-chairs, opened the meeting with a review of the agenda. Attached is the powerpoint presentation which was reviewed.

Joel then spent some time to outline his thoughts on the council, including the goals and operating guidance. Below are some of the key thoughts he reviewed:

- Need to decide how school policy decisions get made. There appears to be confusion and uncertainty as no decision tree exists
- The council represents the juxtaposition of teachers, parents and students and needs to play an active role in understanding the issues and making policy decisions.
 - Should gain input from many different groups and have issues bubble up to the school council. Council will have decision making responsibility and accountability and will lend to the credibility
 - Joel's voice will guide the council on the direction to help determine final recommendations
 - Joel will be the ultimate decision making for all decisions, but will look to the council for key input.
 - This process will change the dynamics of the council and take the group responsibilities beyond the state mandate.
- Since the council will have more decision making authority the group agreed that we should increase the teaching faculty representation to match the number of parents on Council (7). Faculty will elect their representatives.
- Longer term we should consider having the entire council more representative of both the parent and teacher community. (i.e. Parents from METCO, teacher from SPED...)
- Joel asked if there were bylaws for the group and recommended that he give the group more decision-making authority and that the council draft bylaws.
- The group agreed to elect a total of 7 teachers for the committee.
- We agreed that the Council membership should include three students
- The group agreed we need to develop a transparent process to bring decisions to the council and make the final decisions. Our objectives would include:
 - A clear process

- An end point
- A process to communicate, implement and move on
- We discussed the School Improvement Plan (a 3 year plan) which was developed last year. Joel said he supports and will honor the SIP. The council's role in measurement and implementation is TBD.

During the remainder of the meeting we reviewed the content of the powerpoint pages 5-10. Most of the discussion centered around the Subcommittee Goals. The group needs to define how many subcommittees want to have and who will participate on them. The following comments were made:

- Do the teachers have enough time to participate on subcommittees. This is an issue if there is "homework" the teachers may not have the time needed. A few suggestions were raised:
 - Breakout the school council meetings to allow time for the subcommittees to work
 - Invite non-council members who are doing work in specific areas or have expertise in these areas come present and help the council address the issues.

NEXT STEPS:

Possible topics for the next time

- School improvement plan
- Governance and operating structure

Next meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. from 5:30-7. The council is considering moving the meetings to earlier in the day (4:30) to make it easier for school professionals.