

Bacich Site Council Meeting Notes
Date: 21 September 2020

Agenda

- 1) SC Norms - Estelle Dick
- 2) Approve Minutes from June Meeting - Estelle Dick
- 3) Distance Learning Update - Mary Ann Spitzer
- 4) MAP Assessment - Wendy Holmes
- 5) Committee Assessments - Estelle Dick

Attendees

Mary Ann Spitzer, Principal, Co-Chair
Estelle Dick, Parent, co-Chair
Amy Bornstein, Parent, Co-Chair
Holly Myers, Parent
Marty Ross, Teacher
Katie Stern, Teacher
Jen Wallen, Teacher
Wendy Holmes, VP
Elizabeth Petersen, Teacher
Kira Shemano New Parent Member
Ilene Braff, Teacher
Scott Hershman, Parent
Denise Marshall, Teacher
Lissette Fernandez-Hilson, Parent, Secretary

Notes

- 1) Norms Read

- 2) Minutes from June - Approved

3) Welcome: Estelle Dick

Everyone introduced themselves. Estelle made sure that everyone received all of the documents that are needed for kick off. If you don't have the documents and you are on Site Council, please let MaryAnne know and she'll share them with you.

4) Distance Learning Update - Mary Ann Spitzer

Mary Ann Spitzer shared:

Teachers have been focused on standards each week. (Technology, week 1/Social Emotional Learning, weekly/Social Justice, etc.) Yamasaki is meeting with classrooms and talking about self-care. Example: "How to cool off if you get frustrated." Hard work has been over the tops and really exceptional. Grade levels are meeting daily, not weekly as in previous years. This is one of the most collaborative team I've ever worked with.

Kinder - Elizabeth Petersen shared:

The kinder team and students have been doing an amazing job. By 11:30 they start to lose steam, but it's been going really well for this grade level amongst teachers, staff and kids.

1st Grade - Katie Stern shared:

What we've been finding with this grade is how to get the right books in the kid's hands and we are learning and working on strategies to improve this. We are trying to make the kids more autonomous and not trying to rely on the parents so much (problem solve tech, work in a work station, etc.). So far, trying to tweak assignments as best we can based on the kid and build connections with us and each other.

2nd Grade - Marty Ross shared:

The biggest thing we've noticed is that this Fall as opposed to last Spring: more hours with our kids has changed everything for the better. This year we are spending valuable time with our fellow teachers but we are spending more quality time than last year with the students.

3rd Grade - Jen Wallen

Keeping them online until 1 is a big ask for the kids, but they are doing great and rising to the occasion. We are working on how to assess their learning. Collecting the work and assessing it is the biggest challenge for us right now.

4th Grade - Denise Marshall

Pleasant surprises to feel like we now know all of the personalities of our students and how they are learning to work with each other. Break out rooms are working for them. We love that we can conference with our students and individually meeting with them has been so nice for us b/c in a class room you are more distracted and kids are less likely to open up if another student is around so this has been a great opportunity. The challenge is that we are missing being able to walk around and look over someone's shoulder - so the in the moment corrections and help is what we are missing and trying to figure out how to manage the good and the not so great aspects of tech. But off to a good start.

PE - Ilene Braff

I get to go to different classes and b/c I already know most of the kids, there is a certain amount of familiarity with me, some kids are able to bring up things with me that I can pass on to a teacher that they are still getting to know, so that's been great.

Wendy Holmes:

Been so impressive to see the professionalism, scale and talent of our teachers to make social distance learning happen so quickly.

Questions:

Holly: For the students who are uncomfortable talking on a computer screen, how are teachers noticing this and engaging them? How do you draw them out and engage?

- Marty: It takes time. Students need time to trust us and get comfortable with the technology. They are getting there. We know who those kids are now and we are starting to ask "safe" questions (questions they feel comfortable answering).
- Denise: In k4th grade, the chat has been amazing for us to help those kids engage. Also, an application called "Near Pod" which is a collaborative board and a safe space without feeling pressure - so they can have a voice and still be anonymous.
- Ilene - And break-out rooms also help kids feel good about sharing.

Amy: It seems like 11:30 seems to be the time that kids are petering out...Has it made you reconsider how the breaks and lunch should be allocated to help learning as much as possible?

- Marty: Actually, for my class it's 12:30 - 1 that our class is struggling to stay engaged. It's hard to move around schedule overall b/c different classes experience different things. Teachers can play around with schedules.

Lisette: How are you assessing kids? Can you gauge where kids are this year as opposed to end of last year - do you know where most kids are at?

- Katie: We've been using an app called ESGI to help evaluate kids.
- Petterson: This is the hardest part. Especially with 1st grade b/c we can't physically hold their pencil and help them learn to write.
- MaryAnne: I just applied for grant from KIK for a Digital Assessment tool called Affirm that goes with Eureka Math.
- Marshall: We've been creating weekly quizzes to help us gauge if the students understood where we are and then we have the support periods to help them catch up. That's why we also just started Math homework with Zearn so they can help them b/c Zearn provides feedback to the teacher about which problems the kids aren't getting so they can address it with them.

4) MAP Assessment - Wendy Holmes

In the spring we weren't able to have our 3/4th graders able to participate in assessments so we are putting MAP Growth (Measures of Academic Progress) tool into place which measures students' fluency in reading, writing and math. 60-minute assessment and adjusted by grade level. Available in English and Spanish. We will gather info in language arts, math and ELd by grade level, by class and by student. <https://vimeo.com/237926041/96e9c61074> We are still determining how this information will be used and shared.

5) Re-Opening Update - Mary Ann Spitzer

By the 29th we could have kids back at school. Exciting and daunting. Transitioning into Hybrid Plan with some teachers and students by end of Month. When kids come back it will be cohorts of 12. But we are in the planning stages. Baseline protocol safety and Covid protocol measures are being worked on now and will be shared with everyone. Environmentalists have come in to check HVAC systems. Architects have come in to assess how many desks can fit in each classroom. A lot of work is being done to determine how this could work effectively before we actually do it. Safety Protocols are also listed on our website. 2 weeks beta tests are in discussion.

Scott: Would be great to create a video that would help set up families for success on all safety protocols (since few people will actually read through large swaths of documentation).

Estelle: That would be amazing because parents in our district are hearing from all of our friends in other districts that they have plans for this already and we have yet to hear anything.

Amy: We need more information - the more the better.

Marty: Will there be any Covid testing for staff, teachers, kids? MaryAnne: We don't have an answer on that yet. Wendy: There is a screener that parents have to fill out daily.

6) Committee Assignments - Estelle

If you have any suggestions for Agenda items, please send them to Estelle.

If anyone has any suggestions to make sure someone comes to our meetings, please send them to Estelle.

Finance Committee: Holly

Wellness Committee: Kira

Communications Committee: Amy

Safety Committee: Scott

Technology: Lisette

Equity: Estelle