St. Louis Park Middle School Site Council Meeting Notes

January 12, 2022

1. **Icebreaker** – we shared something we did to unplug during winter break
2. **Principals’ Report** – Jason Boll and Gina Magnuson
   1. **COVID** - we have been scrambling since winter break to cover staffing vacancies (more staff out than subs available). Teachers are working hard to help out and cover gaps; Jason expressed appreciation for what staff is doing. Everyone is doing extra to keep the school open.   
        
      Question about moving to remote learning: not planning to go to remote at this point. Question about options for higher risk families: best option is quarantine learning; kids can access it when they are at home.   
        
      Quarantine guidelines - we are at 10-day quarantine. May change pending changes to MN Department of Health Guidance.   
        
      Tests are available for MIddle School students - available in the health office. Vaccination clinic this Saturday at Aquila. CDC recommends boosters for 12-17 year olds.
   2. **SLP Middle School T-Shirt - Appreciation Gift for Staff.**  Site Council funded t-shirts for all staff as an appreciation gesture during this especially challenging year. Thank you Site Council and broader parent community, as well for lunch provided prior to Winter Break.
   3. **Construction -** many changes last year (7 classrooms added, new LMC, multi-lingual room, 4 classrooms converted to 2 science classrooms, new auditorium, 4 special ed rooms renovated, art/design class renovated). Per referendum, funds will be shifted from high school to middle school to renovate and upgrade remaining classrooms this summer – full renovation with furniture, flooring, technology. Auditorium - parts we have been waiting for have arrived, been installed, training to take place soon. Concerts were held in the Auditorium in December - holds 425 people - standing room only at Band concert!
   4. **Incoming 6th grade information night next week -** will be offered virtually. For families of current 5th graders. Contact Julie if interested in participating.
   5. **Quarter-end + Grading** - two weeks left in Quarter. Being cautious about putting summatives at end of quarter due to risk of kids being out. You may not see a summative grade in quarter-end grades. Partnering with high school around their practice of not putting failing grades on report cards.
   6. **Les Bork (Principal)** – recovery going well; all good news. Finalizing plans for his return soon.

1. **Department Update -** no update this month in light of current strain on staff due to Covid
2. **School Board Report** – Julie Yakes   
   Hoping to make an appointment in March to replace Laura McClendon who resigned. If interested, see SLP School Board site.
3. **Site Council Volunteer Opportunities**
   1. Please contact Julie Yakes if interested in being part of representing Site Council virtually at incoming 6th grade information night
   2. Call for leaders for next school year - Many current leaders have kids moving to high school in the fall. Call for Co-chairs, secretary, communications lead for next year.
4. **Committee Reports –**
   1. **Communications** – Frances Bressman-Egan and Gina Magnuson. Robust discussion with ideas to explore captured.
   2. **Racial Equity** – Heidi Meyer. Team members viewed and discussed “The Neutral Ground” documentary; Keith Richardson and Maddy Wegleitner are exploring the possibility to offer a screening at the Middle School. Mia Waldera connecting with Gretchen Haga to explore potential partnership with Racial Equity Student Leadership Team – goal would be to hear from students what meaningful anti-racist action at SLP MS could look like and to support; a goal would be to have a broad base of voices to give input on thai questions. The group will view a video by Ibram Kendi and Keith will lead discussion during the next meeting on Jan 26.
   3. **Mental Health** – Julie Yakes. Revisited idea list from last time; key goal is to get kids to look at self-care and see how this impacts how they feel. Considering mental health week with speakers and community building. Moving ideas forward while acknowledging pandemic challenges - considering smaller ideas such as incorporating self-care content into advisory; giving Mr Justin some recognition items to give to students demonstrating kindness; school-wide Take A Break.

Next meeting Feb 16