**St. Louis Park Middle School Site Council Meeting Notes**

April 20, 2022

1. **Principals’ Report** – Les Bork and Jason Boll
   1. **Rally Night for incoming 6th graders** is Thursday April 21 to get acquainted with Middle School
   2. **Jump Start to Middle School** is Saturday May 21
   3. **School Party to celebrate 21-22 school year -** likely to happen Monday June 6th
   4. **Principal Les Bork is retiring at the end of the school year.** Staff and others were invited to give input on important characteristics for candidates for the role. Application closes April 21. Interviews (first round through final round) by May 18. Selection decision will be announced May 24. (Note, Les is the longest-standing principal in the United States!)
   5. **MCA Testing -** Math was this week; reading is next Tuesday. 8th graders will also take Science.
   6. **Activities:** Spring Sports have started - over 100 kids participating. Spring Musical is Lion King - around 30 kids participating. Talent Show is back - Friday June 3rd in the Performing Arts space - 3 shows (one per grade).
   7. **Potential for half-days next year** - Jason Boll asked for parent feedback on the idea of having shortened days (about 2 hours shorter) 1-2/x month to create more work, planning, and collaboration time for teachers. Parent feedback was positive. Have gotten community feedback that kids miss the Weds asynchronous day/downtime during Covid. Questions to be considered include what would be the impact to after-school, would there be assignments to be completed asynchronously, and would students who needed to be able to stay at school.
2. **Global Interns** 
   1. Karita Bentley, Global Intern program coordinator, put out a **call for host families** for next year's interns. We are seeking 4 host families for next year (2 in the fall, 2 in the spring). Only requirement is to have a bedroom. Interns speak English; you don’t need to have or have had a student at PSI. Great way to learn about another culture and share SLP with someone from another country. Contact [karitabentley@gmail.com](mailto:karitabentley@gmail.com) if interested.
   2. Estefanny Chate Montero, current Global Intern from Bogota presented on Colombia and her experience at SLPMS with the Amity Global Intern program.
3. **Community Project Results -** Mia Waldera, IB Coordinator
   1. Community projects are capstone projects done by 8th graders. Students work in groups of up to 3 to develop, grow, and match their passion with the community to make the world a better palace. The work is conducted during Advisory time largely with 8th grade teachers providing guidance. Students are graded on their goals, plans, action, and reflection. Mia Waldera and Jess Edelheit shared examples of projects and student reflections. Thanks to Jen Schmerler and Jessica Edelheit for their support, and to Susanne Fahey for the special Oriole Times dedicated to the Community Project.
   2. **IB Program (World School) Evaluation** - we will be participating in a 3 stage process - submitting preliminary information, conducting self-study on the standards and practices of a World School, and in Fall 2023 a Global Team will visit the Middle School to evaluate and provide feedback to the school to help us accomplish our mission. The IB mission and SLP Schools mission are highly aligned.
4. **Committee Reports –**
   1. **Racial Equity** – Heidi Meyer. Members of the group attended the Race exhibit at the Science Museum -and highly recommend it to others. Group members read and discussed the book “Our Voices Carried Us Here” which the SLP Human Rights Campaign has promoted. The group is considering a community event connected to the book. Members of the group continue to partner with the Equity and Inclusion Student Leadership Team; as a next step Mia, Karen, and Thia will join a class and hear the students present their work and ideas.
   2. **Communications** – Jason Boll. Focused on the FAQ section on the website and making it more accessible - Greg and Suzanne have made some updates to the website.
   3. **Mental Health** – Julie Yakes. Kindness Awards taking place. Before Spring Break a group of parents and guardians came to school to welcome students and encourage them to finish strong before break.