

PKC Meeting, Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Attendees: Daniel Goffredo, Jennifer Blake, Joanna Wexler, Rachel Dewey, Theresa Becker, Melissa Moore, Tramaine P., Roxanne Cockerham, Suzanne Clancy, Kim Buckanan, Beth Kaniuk, Stephanie Truskolaski, Lavanya Mandapati, Melissa Capelli, Caroline Bradley, Miriam Sandler, Cynthia Parthmer

Absent: David Barratt, Andrea Rizzo, Erin Robins, Jackie Webb, Monica Ryan

Good News Sharing

- HS - Parents shared that they are excited to hear about the Lunch and Learn series. Parents heard positive feedback from students about the new cell phone policy. The Homecoming football game will be September 30 and the Homecoming dance will be October 1. Tickets for the homecoming dance are sold out.
- MS - Students are happy fieldtrips are back. The MS is looking to offer intermural sports at lunch for grades 6 and 7. MS Heritage Night is November 17.
- GW - The Back to School Social had a great turn out. Soup Night, an event where teachers make homemade soups and contribute proceeds to charity, is Thursday, October 13.
- ST - The ST PTO provided a "Thinking of You" breakfast for faculty and staff. There will be a 90s trivia night and silent auction on October 7.
- KDM - The Back to School Book Fair was a huge hit. The event was well attended and well organized.

Welcome to New Members and Introductions

Jennifer Blake welcomed new PKC members and all members introduced themselves to the group.

Reflections on Start of the Year

Jennifer Blake asked parents to share their feedback on back to school experiences.

Parents shared reflections on what they experienced positively, and made suggestions for some improvements to Back to School Nights. Parents also shared ideas related to how survey information is collected, parking, and new family information sharing.

Speaker Series for 2022- 2023

Jennifer Blake spoke about the Speaker Series events that will be offered during the 2022- 2023 school year. The series currently includes: Cannabis Kids and Solutions for Anxiety (October), Tech and Life Balance (January), and Kids and Stress (April). Additional topics related to digital citizenship and mental health first aid will be added.

Diversity & Inclusion Work

Dr. Wexler, Assistant Superintendent, joined the meeting to share information about the equity review that is being conducted in the fall. In November, the Delaware Valley Consortium for Excellence and Equity (DVCEE), will be conducting site visits to each school. During these visits DVCEE will speak in focus groups with faculty and staff, as well as with students whose parents have provided consent. Additionally, there may be open forums for parents to offer input. Climate data (Youth Truth) also

addresses topics covered in the review. The equity review will provide recommendations for the district to consider. All findings will be made public.

A GW parent asked how participation of families will be solicited.

Dr. Wexler stated that principals will be inviting participants. Parents who are not invited to join a focus group may have other opportunities for participation.

A GW parent asked what the percentage is of minority staff at GVSD.

Dr. Wexler shared that 94% of GVSD faculty and staff is Caucasian. Dr. Wexler elaborated on the ways GVSD has looked to increase diversity of incoming staff: a diversity fair, recruiting events, belonging to hiring networks like the University of Pennsylvania, and working with colleges to bring in student teachers. The district has seen slight increases in diverse candidates over the last few years.

A HS parent asked what criteria principals would use in looking for participants.

Dr. Wexler shared that principals will look for representation from all groups.

Lunch and Learn Series at the HS

Dr. Goffredo asked for feedback and reactions to the new Lunch and Learn series being developed for HS students. The program looks to expose students to a wide variety of specific careers by bringing in guest speakers. The program will be offered during student lunches.

Parents shared positive feedback about the program.

Youth Mental Health Training

Dr. Goffredo shared information about the Mental Health First Aid program that GVSD plans to offer to parents and community members. Specifically, Dr. Goffredo asked what days and times are preferable for parents.

Parents suggested that the program be available on both week nights and weekends.

Issues from the Floor

No issues were shared.

The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held in-person on November 16, 2022.
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