

The Mount Washington School
School Family Council
Meeting: 10/13/20, 6-7PM (Virtual via Zoom)

Attendees:

Leaha Charles-Pierre	Co-Chair, SFC Representative-Teacher
Amalie Ward	Co-Chair, SFC Representative-Parent, 4 th Grade
Sara Long	Administration-Principal
Bethany Jacobs	Administration-Assistant Principal
Barbara Drummonds	SFC Representative-Teacher
Karen Ginyard	SFC Representative-Teacher
Amie Luther	SFC Representative-Teacher
Michael Rest	SFC Representative-Teacher
Elizabeth Piatt	SFC Representative-Teacher
Kathryn Chib	SFC Representative-Parent, Kindergarten
Niki McCormally	SFC Representative-Parent, 1 st Grade
Tavian Cardwell	SFC Representative-Parent, 2 nd Grade
Alicia Marner	SFC Representative-Parent, 5 th Grade
Laura Green	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Deborah Harburger	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Marshalyne Seavers	SFC Representative-Parent, Middle School
Matthew Day, Sr	SFC Representative-Parent, Community Representative
Josie Raney	SFC Representative-Parent, Community Representative
David McMurray	Parent, PTO President
Ilene Berman	Parent
Molly Marra	Parent
Danielle Myles	Parent
Imani Nickens	Parent
Sharon Small	Parent
Michael Pinkin	Parent
Lindsay Stoelting	Parent
Christina Theisen	Parent

Notes:

Old Business & Updates:

- *September minutes:* Notes from September meeting were approved by attendees without change.
- *Grade Band Representatives:* There are openings for kindergarten and 3rd grade representatives on the SFC. Ms. Katie Chib agreed to serve as the Kindergarten Representative for the SFC. A 3rd grade representative is still needed. Mrs. Ginyard offered to share this opening in Class Dojo and will ask Mrs. Gover to do the same. Mrs. Ward will provide a summary of the position for them to share.
- *GAL Identification 20-21:* Mrs. Charles-Pierre provided an update on Gifted and Advanced Learning (GAL) Identification. The identification usually occurs during kindergarten. However, due to online learning, the Baltimore City GAL Office and the State of Maryland have decided not to identify learners this year because of questions regarding validity of testing from home. Kindergarteners who were missed this year will be tested next year in first grade. iReady data will still be reviewed but it would need to be compelling for a student to be identified through those data and not the regular testing process. Individualized Learning Plans (ILP) will still be created for children who have been identified as GAL and homeroom teachers are still working to informally identify students.

Parents should email Mrs. Charles-Pierre (Lthomas20@bcps.k12.md.us) with any questions. There is a committee focusing on this issue this year, so parents should reach out with questions or concerns. Mrs. Charles-Pierre will provide the list of the committee members.

School Reminders & Events: The next PTO meeting is tomorrow night, 10/14/20. The Math Night will be on Monday, 10/19 and the PTO would appreciate more volunteers. The link to register and sign-up to volunteer are in the flyers that have been shared.

Subcommittee Meetings: All attendees selected a subcommittee and were moved into breakout rooms. Each subcommittee identified a note-taker who used a shared Google Doc to record initial goals, strategies, and next steps.

Attendance Committee- *tracking data, problem solving to improve attendance, issues/concerns related to attendance (Barbara Drummonds, Niki McCormally)*

Notetaker/Reporter: Niki McCormally

Goal(s): Have students show up for class every day, even if late. 94% goal for attendance every day (even if not there for entire day). OR, if student completes GoogleClassroom assignments within same day, this could count as being present→ use assignments to get student to attend live session as next step.

Ms. Drummonds: Ideas to hook kids that increases attendance:

- Celebrates kids that come to class early (ie, 8:15am for 8:30 start)- tell them to invite their pals.
- Having informal non-school related connections before class starts
- Reaching out to families if student doesn't show up.
- After School Buddy Club: jokes, riddles, keep each other company. Also give extra support for school work.

Any way for admin to help w/attendance?

- Hold everyone accountable- help teach kids how to set their own alarms for older kids.
- Admin ensure families doing their part. If student misses 3 consecutive days, red flag- reach out to families. If unsuccessful, reach out to admin to help reach out to families.
- Remind students presence online equally important to presence on-site.

IB Expansion Committee- *discussing how the IB program can expand into elementary grades (Primary Years Program). (Ms. Ginyard, Amalie Ward, Ms. Luther, Lindsey Stoelting, Ms. Long, Ilene Berman)*

Notetaker/Reporter: Karen Ginyard

Goal(s):

1- Begin work of feasibility study

2- Decide as a school how we will pay for it (training, annual fee aligned with IB)

-Ms. Luther: What do we need to accomplish in primary grades in order to start to be considered IB. Answer from Ms. Long: a feasibility study

-You apply to be a candidate school (says you are aligning with IB philosophies, making sure you have the components from 2nd grade up you need a foreign language in the 2nd year, in 3rd year you may be given status)

-Ms. Long has been through the process twice at other schools to get the schools authorized for PYP

-Ilene Berman asked: Are there materials that describe IB that can be shared with parents and teachers? Ms.

Long- not like you're buying a curriculum, you are doing a philosophical alignment to the IB philosophy. We need to also do some education in the UB community even though they already have it. Maybe the PTO can start talking about it, have ways for the community to ask questions

-Lindsey Stoelting asked- is the goal of bringing IB PYP to MWS something that has been - there have been talk and rumblings but never any traction yet

-Ilene Berman asked What are the barriers from the past? So many changes in leadership has been a barrier

-Amalie asked how lower building teachers feel about it. Ms. Ginyard said she can only speak for herself but she is very excited about it

-Ms. Long can bring the feasibility study information to the next SFC meeting

Safety & Climate Committee- *physical building safety issues, emphasizing Social-Emotional Learning, etc.*

(Marshalyne Seavers, Deborah Harburger, Mr. Rest, Laura Green, Sharon Small)

Notetaker/Reporter: Marshalyne Seavers

Goal(s):

Virtual Learning - engaging students in online learning, -----missed this-----

Required hours of online learning has to be- flexibility (differentiation) hours that they are engaged and how they are engaged...maybe connect with ILT on this. Transitional years- 4th new to UB, 6th new to Middle School. What does that look like when you try to build community virtually...assemblies

In-Person Learning - How do you develop what is personal space? How do you develop a positive interaction so that people keep masks on, don't touch others, are respectful as possible to maximize safety. Preparing before they go back!

Family & Community Engagement Committee- *grants, partnerships, school social events (Josie Raney, Tavian*

Cardwell, Katie Chib. Mr. Day, Dave McMurray, Molly Marra, Imani Nickens) Notetaker/Reporter: Tavian Cardwell

Goal(s):

Are there restrictions on optional in-person activities as within SFC?

Information will be coming out in October for us to have a clearer conversation.

Dave McMurray added that though the School itself is all virtual, PTO is independent of school. There is a [Social Distant Grounds Clean-up this weekend October 17 & 18 from 10-Noon on Saturday and Sunday](#).

-Mr. Day: Goals of Restarting **Tiger Paws 2020** (fathers coming together for support) with activities of: movie nights, father son basketball games, clearing snow from school hill, clean ups, online participation. We can get families that don't normally participate some traction along with families that do. There is something for everyone! Different options for different interests. ***Calling all tiger paws.***

-Molly Marra: Interested in planning a friendly event for kindergarten age around month's end, possibly getting together outside, using scavenger hunts and other ways to get out and about.

-Kathryn Chib (Katie): Support many of these good ideas. Let's review context of Tiger Paws, and the like. We wonder if there are best ways to communicate with families?

If we are in public, do we possibly need a liability form?

-Imani Nickens: Limited social engagement experience, like some of these outside events. Support activities not based around the computer. Even have focus off the computer while connecting virtually (Virtual painting, possible music bands).

Virtual Connection with online green activities with in person signage is a goal. This sets virtual to the real natural world. Even when not coming together to use the shared space to get off the screen and get outside ([15 tips to get out](#)).

-At the heart is about reaching out and connecting our school family and community. In this unprecedented time we see so many ways to reach out; phone, text, email, zoom, yet the foundation of physically being together is aloof. It remains key to use all the possibilities of connecting families with shared interests. We are missing ClassroomParent.com, but still have Dojo. Mostly, we have each other!

Marketing & Branding Committee- *school choice programing, MWS & school community retention, school uniforms (Josie Raney, Deborah Harburger, Alicia Marner, Ms. Piatt, Ms. Jacobs, Mrs. Charles-Pierre)*

Notetaker/Reporter: Deborah Harburger

Goal(s) & Initial Strategies:

- GOAL: Develop internal and external retention & recruitment strategies with a particular focus on the 6th grade retention and recruitment
 - Primary Strategy: Define brand and message
 - What differentiates our school? (IB-existing & expansion, honors classes, K-8, secondary individualized scheduling, small community with individualized attention, course offerings, pathway to Baltimore City high schools and colleges, later AP and other scores)
 - Explore virtual materials, including videos and other marketing materials
 - Develop internal and external messaging
 - Additional Strategy: Review data to identify any trends as well as data to support branding
 - Additional Strategy: Explore activities to share information with current and prospective families (e.g. meetings, flyers, student presentations)
 - Additional Strategy: Determine if MWS is still considered a Choice School for the 21-22 school year. If so, make a thoughtful approach to marketing and outreach, including participation in fairs (virtual or otherwise) and materials sent out districtwide.
- GOAL: Review and update MWS uniform policy to ensure consistency, equity, and alignment with values and brand.
 - Strategy: Determine if uniforms are required and, if so, which grades
 - Strategy: Determine what is included in the uniforms, both for regular class and PE, with a particular eye toward equity and consistency
 - Strategy: Align with marketing and branding strategy (e.g. logos, taglines)

School Questions & Concerns: Attendees had an opportunity to pose questions to the Administration.

What do we know about the ability to convene folks (safely) in-person, whether on school property or not?

There will be an announcement later this week about what the transition to in-person school would look like, which will inform the process. We should know more after that announcement.

If you walk from along where the school buses drop kids off up along Lochlea, there are cracks in the wall and it is unclear if the Outdoor Classroom itself is structurally safe. Has anyone checked on the wall or space in general? The Administration will ask facilities to assess the space.

City Schools sent out an announcement today that indicated that the marking period had ended, instead of saying that the first quarter progress reports (not report cards) were being issued. MWS may want to send out a communication clarifying that point. A message will be sent out on Class Dojo regarding this.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Mrs. Ward will provide a summary of the SFC Representative position for the 3rd grade teachers to share on Class Dojo.
- Mrs. Charles-Pierre will share a list of the members of the MWS GAL Committee.
- Mrs. Jacobs will reach out to facilities regarding the Outdoor Classroom.
- Mrs. Jacobs will send out an announcement on Class Dojo clarifying the City Schools communication