

SLT Meeting

12/1/15

3:30pm-5:30pm

Attendance:

Bob Bender (Principal Member)

Debbie Osborn (CBO Member)

Teachers:

Emily Donatello

Caitlyn Robison

Daniella Nusblatt

Megan Newman

Jamie Reichelt

Parents:

Anu Agrawal

Robin Broshi

Tori Lyon

Ben Caldwell

Elizabeth Devita

Minutes:

A. Approval of November 2015 SLT Meeting Minutes.

B. **CEP:** To be reviewed in January meeting.

C. SLT Enrichment Proposal: Character Lab

1. Submitted by Bruno Kavanagh

2. A website specifically relating to helping teachers work with their students to develop the character traits (related to gritwork)

3. SLT will look at proposal and review at a future meeting

4. In the short-term, SLT will schedule a Family Friday topic to focus on grit to ensure parents are aware of character work being done in the classroom

C. BookClub

1. Kick-off meeting for "Quiet" on 12/3 at 8:00 AM

2. Final culmination meeting for cycle 2: 1/14/16

3. Bob will recommend this book to teachers

D. Curriculum Connection

1. For the 12/9 session, all teachers will send reminder to their classes

- E. Community Goal Updates:** The majority of the November meeting was spent discussing findings from 25+ articles SLT read on homework. Overall, the research done on the importance and value of homework is mixed; it is difficult in many cases to determine causation versus correlation. SLT believes if/how homework is transformed should be a reflection of overall PS11 Values. In addition, SLT finds it important to get feedback from teachers, parents, and students about their views on homework. Highlights from the discussion include:
1. Highlights from the research:
 - i. What are effective homework assignments: individualized assignments, fluency, reading
 - ii. Importance of feedback: Receiving feedback is important part of the learning process
 - iii. Need to account for struggling learners to minimize screaming matches and kids not completing homework
 - iv. What is the appropriate parental involvement: Facilitation of completion
 - v. Possible non-cognitive skills gained from homework: study skills, positive attitude, middle school preparedness
 - vi. Appropriate age to introduce homework: Early grades don't show academic benefit except for reading.

 2. PS 11 Values: Listed out values PS11 has as a school. Purpose of this exercise was to make sure that the homework policy stays true to the overall values of the school.
 - i. Grit/Resilience/Kindness
 - ii. Family Time: Families should decide how they spend their time before and after school
 - iii. Student Choice and Empowerment/Student Experiences
 - iv. Non-academic Skills: Preparing for higher education and developing study skills
 - v. Parental Involvement
 - vi. Diversity
 - vii. Achievement

 3. Forums for how we should receive feedback from school community
 - i. Town Hall meeting with parents
 - ii. Engage student council to get student feedback
 - iii. Teachers

 4. Next steps
 - i. Finalize forums to receive feedback and determine questions to ask students/ parents/ teachers at January meeting
 - ii. Continue discussion on what homework should look like
 - Should children get options and design their own homework for the week
 - What elements will be non-optional: (reading)

Next SLT Meeting: Tuesday, January 5, 2015 3:30-5:30

Appendix:

Curriculum Connection Topics and Dates

1/16, 8:00 AM Wednesday: Parents' perspective on Grit

2/3: | 8:00 AM Wednesday: Importance of Play

3/9: 8:00 AM Wednesday: Testing

5/4: 8:00 AM Wednesday: Student Empowerment

Homework Discussion Timeline:

November: Broke up Research

December Meeting: Discussed Research and began discussion on forums on how we should receive feedback from parents, teachers students

January: Create venues for feedback and questions

February: SLT positioning on Homework

March/April/May: Creating plans, 'studies'