

6:30pm Open meeting

Quick Introduction

No comments from the public.

Election of Council Co-Chair: Tracey LeDoux

18/19 School Improvement Plan Review

- General explanation of the Dewing Improvement Plan (Principal Gerrish and teachers)
 - Acronym definitions (SEL = social emotional learning, DLT = district leadership team, CDSM = cross district science mapping, etc.)
 - West Ed = consultant group to keep consistency among schools
 - SEL: Parents/Teachers said: We want to make sure that our kids are strong confident learners, but we want them to have social skills, have self confidence, be friends, have friends, etc. **We have to remember the whole child.**
 - Discussion of education reform and MCAS and how that took away from the SEL.
 - Find a way to create environments so that children, parents, families feel like the children got what they needed to navigate in society.
- Recap of Council efforts last year:
 - SEL survey: Council got topics and surveyed parents if they agreed with these topics (grit and perseverance, positive self talk, bullying, etc).
 - Topics turned into a Social Emotional Learning fair for parents.
- Christa Gillis comment - *whatever we choose to do as a group should mirror what is happening in the school. We have to make it as intentional as possible*
- Teachers were asked what type of training teachers have been given in SEL:
 - *SEL training is still a budding area for teachers (open circle is one area of SEL time).*
- Principal Gerrish: *Council needs to learn how to work together as a team.*
 - Every council member given book and we will review a little at each meeting (and on our own).
- Parent comment: I like the idea of mirroring what teachers do in classroom at home and vice versa. Teaching the parent would be nice as well.
- Parent comment: Discussion around a father passing away and how that affects the child and the friends of that child.
- Principal Gerrish: You never know what types of situations will happen and it is difficult to prepare for every situation.
- Teacher: Can you be a friend? Can you have empathy? (that is sometimes more important than ABC/123)
- Christa Gillis: If every child can show empathy and compassion, they can conquer the world.
- Parents discussed some personal challenges at home (kids feeling pressure, balancing others feelings vs. their own, etc).

Team Topic Decided: Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Action Item: Team to review the introduction of book (and beyond if they want)

Next Meeting - dates confirmed by group:

- Dec. 13th
- Jan 10th
- Feb 14th

Adjournment: 7:30pm