

Meeting minutes - May 2014

Guests: Jennifer Keller CMC, Maureen (from Deloitte for “impact day”)

Susan Trotz - Deloitte is willing to do an “Impact Day” for them to come and help with the Upper School Library – The lower school books will be brought to the lower school classrooms. June 6th – they want to come and work. The plan is to clean up the space so it looks better. There is also a closet that needs to be cleaned out so it can become the new book room for grades 3-5.

Health and Wellness Committee – Next year will be “Mindfulness” – Kim Taylor Knight will be doing Yoga with parents. June 5th we will be doing a yoga presentation after school. We will get Yoga mats if this

Tuesday mornings will be a new - May 15th at 8:00am the health commissioner will be here if you interested in Nutrition. Question why the unhealthy snacks have returned to the upper school cafeteria after as concerted effort to remove them.

Principal Grassa - Budget cuts – we got k1 & k2 reinstated. We have no other updates about getting new \$\$\$. 11 new fantastic teachers are coming to work here next year. We are the first school system in the country to allow open-posting the jobs. We are hiring permanent and provisional teachers. We are moving ahead with scheduling with the current make-up of teachers. We are asking teachers to do more next year. We hoping for a common planning period for all grade levels. Playing will be also scheduled. We need to know that we can be a strong functioning community even though we have these cuts. We have to plan for the worst and hope for the best. The specialty teachers will be doing more middle school. A draft schedule is in the works.

3 k1s (1 inclusion)

4 k2 (2 general, one SEI, one inclusion)

4 1 grade

4 second (1 SEI and 3 general)

3 rd

4th

There are have been

Community Music Center of Boston – 20th anniversary of having a relationship providing music education to the school. The center was formed in 1910. Located in the South End, they do lessons in all types of music, summer programming, school outreach program, it’s been going on since 1978. They started here at the Curley with a dance program. They are working in 25 school sites. They can do one genre or a combination. They have 21 teaching artists on staff. They are current performers.

Here at the Curley – first it was a dance program – which was funded by a grant funded through the SPC at the time, 30 week programs, 2 semesters, follows an enrichment model where the teachers are involved in the education, parents are also supportive in the concerts (which is a bit unique). Parents have mostly supported the program in combination with an arts expansion grant. What do you get? They work on a curriculum that builds year to year. The consistency for the students has been with the same teachers as last year. Liza Kitchell and Patrice Monahan have been the instructors and hope to come back next year. They work together and are on the same page though they have their own style – teaching from their personal strengths. The directors of CMC come and observe and visit. Grant writing support, and materials – recorders that are used in 3rd, 4th, and 5th. They are hoping to have a 48 minute class period – 2, 19-week semesters. They have a development person who also works with private organizations for funding.

The arts liaison person Anna Youman, in our case, works with the CMC to help with logistics. They want to provide “base-line” experience, so all kids have the experience of music, it gives them an “engagement” hook, something to look forward to, re-enforces what is taught in the class. The arts are an area where they show strengths in other ways. The performances are a great way to engage families – gets them excited to use the auditorium. They’ve also been working on audience etiquette.

A smaller subset of parents work with the CMC. The scheduling process starts over the summer. They are also good at “filling in gaps” working in collaboration with staff specialists. They are here 4 days a week working with the elementary school but supplementing the upper school staff person. This year will be an issue b/c we are losing Mr. Gates due to budget cuts. They are going to provide a chorus for the middle school.

Uniform poll - is 50/50 the deadline is being extended. They are still looking for donations for the uniform exchange. It’s available for dropping off and for taking.

Dominic Burdick – question about the CASP kids not being able to use the playground afternoon. When parents stay to use the playground after school the CASP teachers don’t always feel comfortable bringing the kids out there. There could be compromises – parents could leave by 4pm? -- there could be buttons that the CASP kids wear on their shirts so they are easier to spot? Parents need to follow up about that the issues and concerns are.