

Minutes of the Governing Council: **Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 6:00pm**

Present: Tim Dutton, Victor Bulerin, Sandy Lefkowitz, Nancy Larocca, Miguel Pickering, Rachel Allison, Na'taya Riley, Suzanne O'Brien, Valerie Gibson, Maritza Rodriguez, Elisa Martinez, Carmen Rios, Shanda Sanders

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

1. **Must Fail List Removal and Update:** No one new qualifies to be taken off of the must fail list. All three students who were taken off last time are doing better in terms of attendance.
2. **Update on School:** We have now had two snow days, one early dismissal and one late opening due to inclement weather. Families can sign-up for email updates about closures on ctweather.com.
 - a. Mid-term Exams start in two weeks and only the high school takes them; the high school has half days on exam days.
 - b. We are analyzing data on interim reports given in December. Mr. Dutton offered to make the results available to any interested parents.
3. **Parent Meeting Topics: Update:** We decided to make "How to Build Character" our next parent-meeting topic. Ms. Lefkowitz asked for volunteers to help with this program and Ms. Riley offered to help.
4. **Safe School Climate Rubric and Review:** Mr. Dutton shared our most recent Safe School Climate Report. He believes that in no category is our school doing exemplary work on climate, meaning that in no category are we at the "maintenance" level, wherein all areas of school climate are achieved automatically. We are working toward this level; Mr. Dutton discussed how, for example, student representatives will create a school-wide "charter" in which each class writes a charter that explains how they want to feel at school and how they will behave in order to achieve those feelings. Mr. Dutton asked the Board to approve the report, which they did unanimously. In the next meeting we will review an action plan for implementing the ideas in the report and to approve a climate survey we will give in order to gauge improvement in school climate. Ms. Lefkowitz approved of the plan and thinks it addresses needs of the school.
5. **Emergency Plans and Procedures:** In early December we had a lock down drill and a fire drill. Both went well. We received an emergency packet from the state that will require us to improve our disaster preparedness in certain ways. We will create a committee to approve this document and to ensure our compliance with the mandates it proposes (e.g. a map of the school should be posted by the front door, we need to create a command protocol for the role each staff member will play in the case of an emergency, etc.)
6. **School Wellness Policy (Formerly Food Service Council):** Mr. Dutton shared the new School Wellness Policy with the Board. He said that we are in compliance with the policy in some ways and not in others. For example, what we serve for breakfast and lunch meets standards, but we are not meeting standards in the area of physical education (we do not devote enough time to physical education). Board members brainstormed ideas about how to get our kids moving; one suggested a running club, another said she would look into making the park next to us available to our students.

7. **Title 1 Parent School Compact Update:** We have been spending a lot of professional development time recently on improving reading in grades 7 through 12.
8. **Other New Business:** This coming Friday the state bonding commission is going to approve a grant for sixty tablets, the goal of which is to work toward creating at least two flipped classrooms in which students work more independently and at their own pace.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2014.