**School Council Meeting – December 5, 2017**

Attendees: May Chiu, Martha Hausman, Sue Flicop, Amelia Pennell, Ricardo Gessa, Hema Roychowdhury, Clare Landrigan, Joel Stembridge, Deb Youngblood, Rebecca Levy, Charlie Myette, Marcia Okun, Michelle Luo, Helen Haley, Risa Shames, Bella Ertel and Lisa Terrizzi.

1. **Principal’s Update**

Joel’s update:

* Lip Dub
	+ Students self-identified the group they wanted to join for Lip Dub. They also had the option to leave school or not participate. It was a fun way for peers to connect and show school spirit. Students filmed, directed, and led the event.
1. **Minutes Review – 12/5/17 Meeting**
	* There were not questions. The minutes were approved by the School Council.
2. **Council Feedback about Cum Laude and Student Recognition**

South is one of two public schools in MA that do Cum Laude. We pay dues to be a part of it. Top ten percent of class is Cum Laude and weighted GPA is used to determine ranking. The goal was to allow South to compete with local private schools. Joel has concerns over continuing Cum Laude because it is based on weighted GPA and because the ten percent it is based more on competition than a standard. There are 40-50 other academic awards given to seniors in addition to Cum Laude. There are conversations currently about what would replace Cum Laude. The following question was posed: What is the best way for South to recognize students academically?

Views of Council Members

* South could create their own “Cum Laude” and use non-weighted GPA
* At the end of senior year students are not feeling competitive with each other so is it a problem.
* How much value does it have for students?
* Why are we focusing on academic recognition? Why are we recognizing anything?
* Use the high honors list as a way to recognize academic achievement.
* Recognize what they do with the knowledge they acquire in class. How do you make the lives of others better?
* Twelve terms of high honors could be the standard – how many students would this be?
* Could also recognize projects and products that are outstanding throughout the years?
1. **Evaluate culture results/select theme/form 2-3 groups**
* We reviewed survey results. Joel asked the council to choose 2-3 things to focus on.
* School Council chose: (1) Celebrating Faces of South and (2) Enhancing Teacher/Student Engagement and Communication
* Enhancing Teacher/Student Engagement and Communication: Ricardo Gesson, Sue Flicop, Martha Hausman, Rebecca Levy, Michelle Luo, Amelia Pennell, Hema Roychowdhury
	+ Define what is it? Where is it happening? How can we replicate it? Notice and name what enhances communication and engagement
* Celebrating Faces of South: Helen Haley, Marcia Okun, May Chiu, Risa Shames, Charlie Myette, Deb Youngblood, Joel Stembridge, Bella Ertel, Lisa Terrizzi
	+ Promote ways for all members of the South community to be known, understood and valued for their contributions to creating a positive community at South. To find ways for kids to appreciate each other for their unique contributions.