Newton South School Council Meeting

December 10, 2019

In attendance: Michelle Luo, Clare Landrigan, Didem, Grace Mirabile, Andrew Meyer, Deborah Bernhard, Jasmine Lelloch, Xiaoguang Zhen, Srinidhi Krovi, Ananya Kadive, Marcia Okun, Hema Roychowdhury, Martha Hausman, May Chiu, Principal Joel Stembridge, Brianna Spiegel, Christine Bednarzh, Quinn Etchie

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Newton Youth Stress and Mental Health Survey Presented by the Newton Youth Commission

Representatives shared their mission and the data they gathered. They also shared recommendations. Suggestions were made such as: mandatory 1:1 meeting with guidance counselor once per semester; no homework on holiday weekends/religious holidays/vacations; designated space for mindfulness in each high school; teachers K-12 incorporate mindfulness practices in curriculum; and more voice and choice for students in the curriculum. Here is the link for more information:

1. Principal’s Report

Shared that South administered the first hostile event – run, hide, fight. The main focus is a choice-based plan. Whenever you are in a crisis you need to make a choice. Some students requested more focus on fight. There is a consideration to provide voluntary training during J Block. Bathrooms may need locked repaired in case it a place one might hide.

Newton negotiated a contract. It still needs to be ratified by both sides.

The new schedule cannot be put into place until the contract is ratified. It therefore will not be implemented until September 2021. The new schedule initiative has been decoupled from the late start time initiative. If we are still committed to shifting high school to a later start time there needs to be a voice to advocate.

Joel is interested in using this group to think about creating a mastery transcript to broaden what is shown about a student to colleges/employers and possibly some of the policy recommendations made by Newton Youth Commission.

1. Discussion: How School Council Might Integrate the Stress and Mental Health Survey Results
2. Planning Our Year

Discussion of forming working groups for different initiatives in the upcoming year.