

Notes for Student Council 10/5/21

Introductions:

Attendance:

Tamii Stras - Principal
Michelle Wetlaufer - Community Member
Kia Freeman - Parent
Sumukh Tendulkar - Parent
Johnathon Sheena - Parent
Helen Scarr - Parent
Rachel McNally - Teacher/Parent
Rakashi Chand - Parent
Didem Vardar Ulu... Parent
Tammy Tsikar - Parent
Ananya Kadwe - Student
Andreas Demoor - Student
Andy Sokatch - parent
Michelle Caine - teacher

1 First time running a school council. One positive thing and connection to the school 'ice-breaker'

2. Principal's Introduction:

History and How she got here and her why

3. Discussion and creation of norms. Responses from Attendees...

Be open to non-conventional ideas
Say the thing- even if its uncomfortable
Solicit feed-back during the meeting
Allow everyone to speak even for the quieter participants
Make space for communication
Vulnerability- a willingness to acknowledge missteps and gaps
Assume good intent
Equity and inclusion- understanding equity might not look the same to everyone
Respect participant's time
Excellence in equity
Acknowledge other people's views and experiences with respect and non judgment
Honest and kind and willing to revisit topics
Data driven choices
Focus on student, parents and leader issues
Having goals clear cut before the meeting
Centering Equity and Inclusion
Communication and compassion
Be honest and kind and willing to revisit topics
Respect , openness, constructive criticism
Make space for everyone to contribute
Allowing each participant to speak without interruptions

4. School Priorities/Initiatives

A. Anti-Racism (SHRC) - examining one's own bias and where you are in the world
CCOR (courageous conversations on race)

B. Building Community and Social Emotional Well Being
Secret Morale Pal

Music Mondays
Student of the Month
Celebration of Students

C. MONTHLY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

D. Need additional efforts behind giving students the social/emotional support

E. Social/Emotional well-being- put structures into place to help students be more successful

F. UDL - Universal Design for Learning- Meet students where they are at. Meeting them at their access point. Where is their access point so they can learn

G. MTSS - Multi Tiered Support - Group that meets to watch where students are falling behind

H. Equity and Excellence

I. Students first and center

J. Data driven and always anchor these decisions in our values

5. Expectations of Principal for the School Council- a list of ideas that will be pared down to that smaller groups can focus on 1-3 actionable items

Academics:

1. Working on Mastery Transcripts- Representing students by their full profile but not their grades. What soft skills are they learning, without diluting rigor or academics but adding. -- this item is a student led initiative
2. Metrics to measure the schedule and if it is working. Are the WIN blocks effective? How are we collecting data. What are we looking for?
3. Smaller learning communities (like DiVinci) are powerful in helping with different learning styles. Changing the mind-set of parents/students around the idea of the smaller learning communities. "students in those classes are easy or slacking"---this item is a student led initiative
4. Multi Level Classes-How that word has become a dirty word. Doing the research on that and disseminating the information to the parents about UDL and CP, Honors etc.
5. Weighted GPA - Resolved

Social/Emotional

1. Non-academic spaces for teachers and students to interact and strong relationships. Find it challenging at NSHS to be able to meet in smaller break out space.
2. "Pressure Cooker at South" How do we make Newton South a less stressful environment?
3. Getting Extra Clinical Supports - FTE
4. Communications and Processes for the School's Disseminating the scheduling before
5. Social Justice

Safety:

Walking/Safety School routes. Coordinating with Buses, Walking, Bus passes-last year's item

6. Next Meeting Topics: November 9th, 6-7:30

1. Group Break out
2. Paring Down topics

3. Prioritizing Items that can be worked on now versus needing more data and being spearheaded by other entities(WIN block and school start time)