

Dover Sherborn Middle School
School Advisory Council
February 25, 2014
Meeting Minutes

1 **Welcome**

- Present: Scott Kellett, Kelsey Ferranti, Erin Gorden, Rebecca Graf, Karyn Kaplan, Sushil Kumar, Julie McKee, Kim Phelan, Anita Sebastian, Kathy Sveen, Michael Lee, Kevin McIntosh, Kristen Dummer, Kathy Sveen

2 **Approval of Minutes**

- Approved

3 **Handbook**

- Handbook is in good shape with changes to cyber bullying
- Discussed linking website cyberbullying inquiries to handbook - add statement saying that link "will lead you there"
- Discussed birthday locker decoration - leave as is
- Discussed sending an email to parents to inform them of locker decorating policy and explaining the fact that it may be exclusionary
- Discussed dress code - will violations become less of an issue now that air conditioning is working?

4 **School Improvement Plan**

- Scott made action items (3rd column) a timeline
- Added 3rd focus area (align MS and HS schedules)
- Discussed the development of a schedule that is educationally sound for both schools through the efforts of a committee
- Discussed several reasons for new schedule: shared staff, middle school students taking high school courses...
- Discussed 4th focus area (Academic Excellence)
- Added: Landmark training/Response to Intervention (RTI) to # 4
- Discussed added Landmark services to provide a need - to keep students with Language Based Learning Disabilities (LBLD) at DSHS/DSMS and to bring others back

- Discussed the regions success at bringing several students back to DS (parents want children at DS - should we involve these parents in the planning process?)
- The district has hired Ann Larson, from Landmark School, to visit classrooms to consult with teachers - will be beneficial to all students
- Discussed Common Core (ELA and math)
- Discussed sixth focus area (technology)
- Eight students who applied and were recommended, offer technology help to students and faculty during H block
- The technology students have refurbished a cart of laptops and work to keep the existing laptop carts in order

5 **Parent and Student Survey Question Revisions**

- Discussed the possible need/benefit of a teacher survey
- Discussed the idea of surveying recent HS graduates and ninth grade students at the end of freshman year about MS
- Discussed importance of keeping survey same year to year
- Survey should be about 30 basic questions
- Discussed combining a survey with HS - basic questions and then several questions specific to each building
- Discussed limiting open response questions to eliminate parent venting
- Scott suggests holding off on survey for now

6 **Other Business**

- For our next meeting - please read over and edit School Improvement Plan
- Scott will talk to John Smith (HS) about combining a HS/MS survey
- Scott will add hyperlink to handbook
- Place a note in Table of Contents about hyperlink (hit XXX and it will take you to...)
- Make sure all changes are made to handbook before it goes to school committee
- Next meeting - March 18, 2014, 3:15, MS conference room

7 **Adjourn**