

**Dover Sherborn Middle School
School Advisory Council**

March 18, 2014
Meeting Minutes

1 Welcome

- Present: Scott Kellett, Kelsey Ferranti, Erin Gorden, Rebecca Graf, Karyn Kaplan, Kim Phelan, Anita Sebastian, Kathy Sveen, Michael Lee, Kristen Dummer, Joanne Draper

2 Approval of Minutes

- Approved - change to attendance

3 Handbook

- Add to locker decorating rules: bring your own material - don't take supplies from the art room

4 School Improvement Plan

- Made a few, committee suggested, changes to the Improvement Plan's dates and wording
- Discussed Aspen portal - teachers will either create an Aspen site or will have a link to their Google site
- Aspen portal will have student and parent log-ins and links to all school and community related information
- Discussed MS school safety and a planned lockdown
- Scott is meeting with both Dover and Sherborn police chiefs to plan lockdown
- Discussed conducting a drill as students are on their way to lunch and gym - Scott will bring up the idea at meeting with chiefs
- Discussed reason for no enclosed walkways from MS to Lindquist - bus route, cost...
- Discussed the need for students to know the steps they should take during a lockdown - especially if they are in the bathroom, hall, or at lunch
- Discussed the steps and 3 tiers of the MS RTI program
- Discussed Landmark training
- Ann Larson (Landmark) will visit classrooms to observe and then give a presentation on universal language based learning strategies to the faculty
- Discussed the MS Team approach - Teams meet 3-4 times/cycle to discuss students

- Discussed guidance next year - Kelsey 8th and ½ of 6th and Joelle 7th and ½ of 6th
- Discussed communication from elementary schools to MS - information is being passed along about each student from grade to grade and school to school
- There is a good transition from elementary school to middle school
- Students will be notified of their new Teams at end of August
- In June, entire 5th grade will visit MS while 8th grade is in DC. 6th graders will take them on tours and they may stay for lunch
- 1st week of April - meeting with 5th grade parents to help them feel comfortable and to discuss foreign language, etc
- Parents will be invited to call the school with questions and concerns

5 **Parent & Student Survey Questions**

- Discussed giving students one survey with about 30 questions
- Discussed the Tell Survey
- Discussed Challenge Success Survey - a Stanford designed DSEF grant
- Will other districts be taking the same survey and will we be able to compare data?
- The survey is a way to improve our school culture and identify issues such as stress
- Discussed possibility of comparing data from middle school students to same survey taken, again, in high school
- There may be a parent component to this survey
- Discussed Signs of Suicide Survey (SOS) taken in upper middle school and at the high school
- Discuss sharing the data from above survey with school committees
- Discussed sharing this data with the community
- Discussed publishing school data such as how many students move up or down from CP/Honors/AP classes
- Discussed the need to educate parents about overscheduling their children vs. academic success
- Discussed the idea that most successful students exhibit a balance of sports/activities and school
- Can we show parents data on above statement?

- Discussed the idea of communicating with parents about the negative academic effects of family vacations scheduled during non-vacation weeks

6 **Other Business**

- Before our next meeting, Scott will have a dialogue with Ellen about the Challenge Success Survey
- Scott will share survey questions with the committee
- Scott will report on his meeting with police chiefs about lockdown
- Next meeting - April 15, 2014, 3:15, MS conference room

7 **Adjourn**

- 4:36 PM