

Addison Northwest School District
Community Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2016

Attendees: Chris Cousineau, Diana Raphael, Laurie Childers, Kristina MacKulin, Travis Park, Kaci Pierce, Scott Grant, Judy Elson, Kathryn Wyckoff, Megan Tarte absent: Finn Yarborough

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

1. Judy Elson motion to accept the minutes from the 9/25/16 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
2. Review of sample ground rules. It is agreed the committee would like to adopt the following:
 - a. start on time
 - b. share the air, give everyone a chance to speak before speaking again
 - c. assume good intentions
 - d. come prepared
 - e. read emails on regular basis
 - f. follow up on commitments
 - g. let chair know if you will not attend a meeting
 - h. support committee decisions
3. Committee divided into smaller groups to:
 - a. summarize open house responses (Laurie C., Kristina M. and Kathryn W.,
 - b. talk about ideas for the first focus group (Judy E., Chris C.,
 - c. talk about ideas for faculty/staff involvement (Travis P., Kaci P., Scott G.)
4. Groups reported out.
5. Discussion about opportunities for student voice. The group discussed the following questions:
 - a. "What makes you feel/or not feel proud and engaged within the school and community?"
 - b. If school/education could look different, what types of educational opportunities could prepare you for a very different future?

We decided that many students do not feel engaged and the questions might provide too much leeway for complaining. Kathryn Wyckoff will ask the Student Council mentor, Janet Kepes if they can take on creating a question that can generate authentic student voices.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.
The next meeting is November 15, 2016.

10/18/16 Neighborhood Focus Group Notes: (Chris, Judy, Scott, Megan)

- Focus Question changed a bit from 8/25 meeting: “What role do you see your community playing in your school and your school in your community?”
- Hold 1 focus group in each town: Looking for a Waltham and Panton home to host. Ideas: Jeff Glassberg (sp), Mimi and Tim CLarke, Margo Grace? Others?
- How to invite people to a focus group: These were ideas we talked about, but it would be up to the person running the focus group to decide how they want to advertise.
 - Personal invite 3-4 friends
 - Front Porch Forum
 - Morning Meeting teachers let students know
 - Notify other groups that meet (fire dept., historical society, town comm groups...)
 - School Newsletters
 - Offer free daycare?
- What does the focus group look like?
 - Good Food
 - 1 host - could be person who owns the home or a comm. Member
 - 2 Comm. members attend to facilitate meeting
 - Explain to the group the Purpose of the focus group: To assist in creating a vision statement for the ANWSD. Other groups are doing a similar thing - students and faculty.
 - Introduce the question to the large group.
 - Provide stickies for group to respond to the question in an informal way - can put up as many as they want.
 - As a whole group attempt to organize the stickies - where is there overlap. This is an open discussion with the group.
 - Narrow down to a few categories. These categories then get taken and combined with the student and faculty results to be then turned into a vision statement for ANWSD.
- Chris has volunteered to host the first one before the new year, but after the election. All others must be completed by March.

Faculty/Staff vision input notes: (Kaci P, Diana R, Travis P)

- o What is the question? How can the ANWSD board help you feel valued, cared for and heard?
- o Diana will contact principals (through the Superintendent) and ask for 20-40 minutes of faculty meeting time to address this question.
 - The question will be sent out a week ahead of time in the form of a Google doc to all faculty and staff. Answers can be anonymous.
 - At a faculty meeting the committee members will give background and ask faculty to pair up to discuss entries, which have been entered into a table, on the google doc and prioritize their top 3, possibly adding a new entry.
 - The group will come back together and work to prioritize the list.
- o Principals will decide when they can complete this activity before spring vacation.
 - Who? Two committee members at each meeting.

10/18/16 – Open House Feedback Summary Notes: Kristina M.; Laurie C., and Kathryn W.

Note: FCS, ACS, and VUHS feedback; we did not have VUES

We summarized and divided the responses into 3 categories: Academic/Equity; After School; and Identity/Philosophy.

Academic/Equity

Be prepared for middle school.

Have a strong and diverse curriculum.

College preparedness.

Personalized and accelerated learning options.

More hands-on learning.

All schools working to benefit all students.

Want more arts, music and foreign language opportunities.

Teach students to have great expectations and to think for themselves.

After School Issues

Combined sports opportunities, more support for sports, access to the Vergennes pool for all students.

After school programs/activities in all the schools.

More comprehensive opportunities.

Identity/Philosophy

Maintain individuality and traditions of each school.

Letting students find their own path and voice.

Be good, be kind, be brave.

Develop grit.

Build on what is already good.

Develop happy, confident students who are kind, compassionate and become productive members of their community.

Education needs to apply to life.