

Minutes Citywide Meeting

Date: 11th January 2021

Time: 7 pm

Participants: Courtney Perdios (President) Frank Santoro (School Committee Member)
20 -25 parents

Agenda: To discuss following questions in breakout rooms and have an open discussion afterwards

1. Introductions and the model your family has chosen for school -- remote, hybrid or full in-person.
2. What is working well for your child and family about the model they're in? What have been some of the challenges?
3. If you are involved in the PTO, what has that experience been like this year? What do you think are the successes and challenges your PTO has had? Do you have plans for the rest of the year?
4. What would you like to see Citywide focus on or address in the second half of the year?

Open discussion in the last 10-15 minutes of the meeting to get feedback on respective break out room discussions.

Courtney opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of the year. She said QPS didn't join us in this meeting. Citywide meetings are community based and today we get back to community discussion to get best results. She said the most questions to discuss in the breakout rooms are developed by Ashley. She said that we are going to go into breakout rooms so as give everyone the opportunity to share. She said the format of the meeting is:

- Breakout in 4 groups of 5 each for 40 minutes. And then each group shares feedback. The groups will be moderated by Gina, Jennie, Matt and Courtney
- Can do school specific updates
- EDI subcommittee update

For the breakout rooms it's up to the comfort of people to have their camera on or off.

Breakout Room Updates:

Group 1: Moderated by Matt Valencius

Matt said Marion in his group suggested a report by QPS on how they are preparing to address the gaps on learning levels of the students once things are normal. Some students might be behind some ahead and some might be where they were. Colleen suggested to evaluate gap. Kids are underprepared due to less homework and might fall further behind academically. Marion said that remote meeting and conferences are a great idea as it helps people to attend meetings more easily. Matt said formal effort should be made by QPS about the learning lessons from this academic year if something like this happens again.

Group 2: Moderated by Gina Favata

Gina said their group discussed about the social emotional learning of children. There should be a formal plan to address social emotional learning of kids once they are back in school. Gina also said their group feels there should be a central place for parents to get their information from. The group felt the year has been mix of challenges.

Group 3: Moderated by Jenni Torres

Jenni said their group touched on various topics. They discussed that when this is over what can we learn from this. What were the challenges and benefits? There should be a discussion on lunch and recess when the school comes back in normal. They discussed about the school culture and a need for a deeper introspection on why families went remote for reasons apart from the pandemic. They wanted to know what is the fall plan? They spoke about language immersion at a younger age. Liz suggested that as a group they should watch and discuss something from EDI together. The group acknowledged the hard work of teachers. They also felt education wasn't that rigorous and some techniques are needed to build kids confidence when they need to switch off their camera in class. Community building is a challenge during these remote times.

Group 4: Moderated by Courtney Perdios

Courtney said that their group felt that the interventionists are teaching classes fulltime due to staff shortage. This is resulting in less interventions happening in the classrooms. IEP kids are getting their interventions but other kids are not getting interventions due to staffing shortages. They also felt that remote kids were not seeing what the in-person kids were seeing in the classrooms. Some also felt that studies were not that rigorous. How these gaps will be addressed? They felt high school was doing a lot better than how it was

in spring. High school time management on asynchronous days have a lot of room for improvement.

After the breakout room feedback Courtney addressed that moving forward Citywide would alternate meetings between speakers and round tables. Courtney spoke about community pool testing as announced by Governor Baker. In community pool testing they would test 10 samples of kids and teachers from a class and if it comes negative then the classroom is safe for all kids. If its positive then all people will be tested individually. This will help in reducing the turn around time and building confidence.

For February meeting maybe someone from QPS will address the parents as many have questions about Fall 2021.

School PTO's updates:

Squantum: Liz Nuzzo said they felt there is more engagement of parents on zoom meetings. She said their fund raiser regarding selling school gear went very well that they are planning a second round. The principal comes on meetings and gives updates and discusses gaps. Also, he gives city updates when possible. Colleen said more diverse people are attending the meetings. Liz said that there is better teacher turnout also in the zoom meetings.

Marshall: Courtney said that now they have come to the point, "What to talk about" in their PTO meetings. Previously, they had a bingo night and a game night which went very well as kids were excited to see the principal also participating. Marshall also had a letter day where parents donated whatever they would spend on any one activity for entertainment. Marshall collected \$1500 with that initiative.

Lincoln Hancock: Ashley said that they had 5-6 teachers attending their meetings which are being driven by the principal and parents. She said they did a fund raiser for a classroom that needed ear phones. She said they discussed themes like MLK day and what can they do.

Beechwood Knoll: Gina said they had coco craft night led by BKS energetic PE teacher. There was dancing and fun craft activities which kids loved. The craft kits were bought by the PTO. She said she had a fundraiser in collaboration with Baby Cakes which was a great success. People ordered cupcakes decorating kits and had a great time using it. Also, it supported the local business.

People felt the virtual option is great for meetings even when schools reopen.

EDI Subcommittee Update:

Ashley updated about EDI working groups and in December the school representative group had small informal meetings. Representatives from various schools shared what their school is doing for EDI initiatives. She updated the next EDI school representative meeting on January 12, 2021 will be addressed by Cassandra Beck of QPAC. Liz said that we as a group should watch and discuss something on EDI. Shiv updated about what Quincy schools are doing with respect to EDI initiatives. Beechwood and Wollaston had their climate survey, Squantum has their EDI meeting scheduled for January 14, 2021. Merrymount is doing a book club. Courtney updated that Marshall is planning a virtual international night.

Announcements:

- Re-entry task force meeting on 14th January
- School committee meeting 13th January
- Next Citywide meeting 8th February