



Lowell Public Schools
Moody Elementary School
158 Rogers Street
Lowell, MA 01852
978-937-7673



Moody Elementary School Site Council Meeting Notes

December 11, 2019

Welcome and Introductions

What is SSC

- SSC is an advisory body that meets 7 times a year, consisting of school staff, administration, parents and community members. The School Site Council works together sharing ideas and opinions to assist in the decision making at the Moody School.

Moody School Enrollment and Demographics

- Total Enrollment 225
 - 43- Grade K
 - 48- Grade 1
 - 44- Grade 2
 - 48- Grade 3
 - 42- Grade 4
- The population includes 122 ELL students. We are fortunate to have the support of paraprofessionals, allied arts teachers and tutors working with our high needs population. In addition, Mrs. Fatima DeSousa recruited 6 bilingual volunteers to come in to assist students and teachers.

Budget Updates

- At this time of year, we receive a lot of donations. We have a wonderful partnership with Bill and Jan Haddad from On the Move, who supply our students with books to promote literacy. They have also had bookcases made for our classrooms that they have generously donated to our school. Supported by Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Mrs. Liz Freeman and Mrs. Bonnie Callanan, former Moody Elementary School teachers, conduct Book Giveaways to also put books in the hands of our students. Other organizations, who are very charitable to our school include, It's All About the Kids, Northeast Association of Realtors, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Rogers Hall, The Lowell Police Superior Officers Association, Catie's Closet, and DonorsChoose.org.

Personal Updates

- ***Congratulations to Mrs. Fatima DeSousa who was recognized for the Superintendent's Exceptional Employee Recognition Award!!!!!!
We are so grateful to Fatima for all she does especially her outreach efforts to parents and community resources!!! So well deserved!!!!***

- We have experienced a lot of staff changes due to maternity/medical leaves and have had difficulty finding short and long term substitutes. We have hired Mrs. Ellen Ulery as a long term substitute. Mrs. Ulery is finishing an assignment in another school until the end of the month and will begin working here beginning the first week in January. Ms. Mary Farley will be substituting as a paraprofessional while on college break. This is our first time having trouble finding substitutes so we are very grateful for Mrs. Ulery and Ms. Farley. The district is in need of increasing their substitute pool so please pass the word to contact our HR Department if you know of someone who may be interested.

Curriculum

- ❖ *Playworks* – We are receiving nothing but positive feedback from both students and staff about the Program. The organized and structured play options offer children alternatives and are promoting friendships, sportsmanship and social skills while building confidence and self-esteem.
- ❖ *Phonics* – According to observations and assessment results, this is an area of weakness for our students, even at higher grade levels. We are updating Phonics Toolkits and using resources from i-Ready and other programs. We are researching affordable Phonic Programs to purchase and Mrs. Pappathan is piloting the SIPPS Program.
- ❖ *Family Support* - We are trying to involve parents more in their student’s education. Class Dojo has been a wonderful tool for communication with parents to inform them of school happenings and curriculum initiatives.
- ❖ *Professional Development Update* – The Instructional Leadership Team is engaged in an online course offered by Harvard University entitled, *Introduction to Data Wise: A Collaborative Process to Improve Learning and Teaching*. Team members are creating data inventories and learning to use data wisely to build a culture of collaborative inquiry.
- ❖ *Attendance* - We continue to monitor attendance working with the district, making phone calls and conducting home visits as needed.

Partnerships/Afterschool Programs

- Afterschool program are funded by our professional development funds.
- Kids in Tech – The program has ended for this session and will start again in January.
- Girls Inc.- Program is still in session and will continue next week and start again in January.
- Lego Engineer Club will end next week. It will not be offered next session.

Assessment Results/Progress Monitoring

- We will be conducting ACCESS training today to prepare for testing students in January. It gives us a measure of how well our ELL students are doing. The speaking portion of the test does not necessarily match up with our students’ ability. We have brought this to the attention of the ELL Department as a concern. It has been a consistent problem since using the computers as an assessment too vs. one-one, face-to-face interaction. We observe students speaking at a higher level than what their scores indicate so we wonder if it is an IT, dialect or heavy accent issue.

School Improvement

- We have a well representative membership with a collaborative and reflective atmosphere identifying school improvement priorities based on collected data results. We are not receiving any funding to support our school improvement efforts therefore the team agreed to meet in the morning on Early Release Days when students are engaged in school wide activities. Schools that are performing lower than us get additional funding to support school improvement efforts.

Facilities/Safety

- We had new tiles replaced in the front hall and in the cafeteria. We would like to work with the school department and the city to develop a plan to begin to beautify our physical spaces by painting hallways, doors, stairways and classrooms.

Family Events

- Monday, November 25th ~ Star Citizen’s Luncheons for All Grade Levels were held
- Tuesday, November 26th ~ Thankful Breakfast for All Families @8:30AM was awesome
- Tuesday, November 26th ~ Character Trait Assemblies
- Wednesday, November 27th ~ Whimsical Wednesday Activity in each classroom to promote 100% Attendance
- Wednesday, November 27th Early Dismissal @11:10AM
- Thursday, November 28th – Friday, November 29th ~ Thanksgiving Recess
- Monday, December 2nd ~ School Reopens
- Wednesday, December 4th – Grinch Night was a big success
- Thursday, December 5th ~ K-4 Report Cards sent home

Upcoming Events/Updates

Wednesday, December 11th

- 9:00 ~ Winter Book Giveaway begins
- 9:30 ~ Instructional Leadership Team Meeting
- 12:50 ~ Early Release Day
- 1:00 ~ Staff Holiday Luncheon
- 1:30 ~ ACCESS Training, ILT Updates, Phonics Toolkits,
- K-4 Report Cards go home

Friday, December 13th

- 1:30 ~ Mrs. Klobucher's class and some Grade 3 and 4 students visiting Rogers Hall with Ms. Cowart

Monday, December 16th

- 12:30 ~ BUGs Program visits Ms. Scannell's class (Bringing Up Grades)
- Grade K visits Concord Museum

Tuesday, December 17th

- Grade 4 ELA Professional Development

Wednesday, December 18th

- Pajama Day
- Bill & Jan Haddad visit
- 8:30 ~ Family Holiday Breakfast
- 9:30 ~ Holiday Sing Along in Gym for students, families and staff
- 6:30 ~ Lowell School Committee Spotlight On Excellence will feature the McAulliffe, McAvinnue, Moody, and Murkland's participation in the Mill City Educator Conference (MCEC) held on November 5th

Thursday, December 19th

- A surprise visitor

Friday, December 20th

- Holiday Vacation Begins at 2:50!!!

Thursday, January 2nd

- School Reopens

Wednesday, January 8th

- Early Release Day

Wednesday, January 8th

- Crazy Sock Day

Wednesday, January 8th

- ILT Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th

- The Ned Show at 1:00pm for Grades K-4

Wednesday, January 15th

- Tsongas Arena for Grades 3 and 4

Monday, January 20th

- No School to honor Dr. Martin Luther King

Wednesday, January 22nd

- Grade 1 ELA Professional Development

Ideas/Suggestions/Topics for the Upcoming School Year

- Students still talk about the whole school going to the beach! Can we consider taking the whole school this year?
- Our students have been so well-behaved and respectful indicating that our social emotional curriculum is paying off. Having high expectations and promoting a growth mind contribute to our success. Playworks is also having a positive impact.

Open Forum

❖ *Budget concerns raised*

- We are a small school, and there seems to be an impression that we don't need additional funding. More than half of our students are classified as English Language Learners (52%). 54.20% of students' First Language is not English, 88% of our students are considered High Needs, and 72% are Economically Disadvantaged.
- We don't have a social worker, or a vice principal. Last year we had a ½ time ELL teacher for an ELL population that is more than ½ of our total population.
- We are paying 100% of our Allied Arts teachers but we only have them for 80% of the time. This has negatively impacted our daily operations, in terms of creating the master schedule, conducting vertical team meetings and providing individual and small group enrichment/intervention. In a larger school, you have more staff to cover duties and mandatory IEP meetings. Coverage options are so different due to limitations and are difficult to provide in a small school setting. This situation is exacerbated when staff members don't have a substitute provided to cover their assignments.
- Afterschool Programming – one of the biggest challenges is transportation costs. Lack of funding resources prohibit us from offering any programs at this time unless parents can provide transportation.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020