



Lowell Public Schools
Moody Elementary School
158 Rogers Street
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Moody Elementary School Site Council Meeting Notes

October 9, 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

We lost our 5th grades in June 2019 when they returned the classes to the Sullivan Middle School for the 2019-2020 school year. Our preschool programs were moved out of the building for the 2018-2019 school year to make room for two Grade 5 classes. As a result, we have reconfigured available spaces to house our music, special education, content literacy and the ELL programs.

We had almost 300 students last year. We started with 240 students on our rosters this year but our latest enrollment figure is down to 230. The enrollment figure will impact our budget allocation. We service students who speak a variety of languages, 17 in all. The majority of students speak English, Portuguese and Spanish. We are grateful to have additional resources to support our ELL population. We now have the ELL Teacher full time this year vs. sharing her with the Washington School. ELL students are also supported by tutors and 5 volunteers. However, having the highest percentage of ELL students in the district, we are still in need of additional resources and support.

Budget Updates

We were disappointed that we did not receive any site based budgeting allocation for student needs at this school. We are still in the process of determining how we can use the funds for .5 Math Resource Teacher position that we did not fill when our MRT, Mrs. Gayl Hurley returned to her previous position at the Sullivan Middle as a Grade 5 Classroom Teacher. SSC agreed to request that the allocation be used to hire math tutors, fund a Math Lead Teacher position, pay for ST Math and any remaining funds be appropriated for use to support after school programs and Professional Development.

Personnel Updates

❖ Moody School Staff

- The following staff members did not return to their positions this year. Mrs. Erika Angluin and Mrs. Mary Ann McMahon resigned from their tutoring positions. Mrs. Gayl Hurley, Ms. Sherianne Kinney and Mrs. Martha Martin returned to their former positions as Sullivan Middle School Grade 5 teachers. Our foster grandparents, Mrs. Kathleen Lamb and Mrs. Helen Desroche will not be returning at this time but hopefully will be able to join us at a later date this year. We wish all of these wonderful folks the very best! They will all be missed!
- We do not have a School Social Worker. Our students, families and staff need support, especially since there is no Assistant Principal in this school. We are fortunate to have the SEL support of a tutor for 18 hours a week as well as the dedicated staff and community partners who go above and beyond to address student needs.
- Our Three Allied Arts teachers are now all assigned to provide services one full day a week at the Adie Day School.
- New Cafeteria Manager ~ Mrs. Leanne Holmes
- New ELL Tutor – Mrs. Sharon Cooney

- New Volunteer – Ms. Vanessa Lemy
- New ETC – Mrs. Tracy Bowers
- ❖ **District Personnel**
 - New Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Joel Boyd
 - New Chief Schools Officer- Dr. Linus Guillory
 - New Chief Equity & Engagement Officer – Ms. Latifah Phillips
 - New Chief Operating Officer – Dr. James Hall

Curriculum

- Developing language, vocabulary, oral and written discourse continue to be identified as priority school wide goals. Students continue to use 21st Century skills (communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical-thinking) to enhance reading comprehension as well as oral and written discourse.
- ST Math is an online visual math program that builds a deep conceptual understanding of math through rigorous learning and creative problem solving. The visual approach provides equitable access to all learners.
- Phonics toolkits are being created at every grade level.
- MindUp, a social emotional learning curriculum was adopted at our school to address the needs of students exhibiting challenging behavior. The program has been very successful and we will continue using it in all grade levels K-4. Additionally, we have also had success by specifically using strategies to cultivate a growth mindset in every student to drive motivation and achievement. By infusing a growth mindset into our culture, we are encouraging students to take risks, view mistakes as opportunities to learn and develop their abilities through hard work and effort. We strive to help all students feel safe, be respectful and kind to others and develop a positive self-esteem strictly enforcing our anti-bullying policy,
- ❖ **2019 – 2020 Classroom Buddies Assignments:**

Mrs. DeSousa	K	Mrs. Costello	2
Mrs. Gallagher	K	Mr. Ibarguen	3
Mrs. Donovan	1	Mrs. Pappathan	3
Ms. Flynn	1	Ms. Reynolds	4
Mrs. Klobucher	2	Ms. Scannell	4

- ❖ **Professional Development Updates**
 - ST Math Presentation for all staff
 - Student Learning and Professional Practice Goals
 - ELA – District writing/reading workshops for each grade level scheduled throughout the school year
 - Ms. Pappathan, Grade 3 teacher, attended SIPPS Professional Development Training Workshop
 - Learning walks-teachers go into classroom to learn strategies from other teachers. The focus is on academic discourse teaching students how to be able to explain and expand on their thinking.
- ❖ **Attendance**
 - Attendance is directly related to achievement. Attendance is monitored daily. Phone calls and home visits are made as warranted.

Partnerships/Afterschool Programs

We are one of four schools in the district partnering with **Playworks**, a nonprofit organization that helps kids to stay active and build valuable social and emotional life skills through the power of play. Their staff works with our staff to encourage positive play experiences by setting up all kinds of organized and structured recess games. Social emotional skills are embedded in the play. The belief is that kids who play are resilient, empathetic, and active. Through play, kids learn to make friends, solve problems, and believe in themselves, even in hard times

- ❖ **Afterschool Programs** funded by our professional development funds will include:
 - Kids in Tech
 - Girls Inc.
 - Playworks
 - Lego Engineer Club

Assessment Results/Progress Monitoring

- ACCESS testing-speaking portion is low. Wondering if this may be due to IT, dialect or heavy accent issues.

- Reviewing Preliminary MCAS results
- Completing Fall Assessments

School Improvement

Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has been finalized. Established meeting norms and proposed meeting dates. Reviewing responsibilities, expectations, goals. Reviewing School Vision and Mission Statements. Gathering and reviewing data identifying priorities to target school improvement.

Facilities/Safety

- Updated The Moody School Crisis Plan that encompasses emergency response procedures (fire drills, soft and hard lockdown, rally points) as it relates to classroom locations. Procedures continue to be practiced as a whole school to monitor response time and determine if any adjustments are necessary to ensure all classrooms have adequate support, especially for any new students, staff members and/or volunteers who may be unfamiliar with the Moody School procedures.
- Learning about CrisisGo, an app that can be downloaded on devices for easy access to safety resources.

Family Events

- Wednesday, September 11th ~ Open House
- Wednesday, September 25th ~ Annual Family Spaghetti Dinner 5:00 – 6:30
- Thursday, September 27th ~ Fundraiser ended
- October Family Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Upcoming Events

- Friday, October 4th ~ School Pictures were taken
- Wednesday, October 9th ~ Progress Reports going home for Grades K-4
- Congratulations to **All** of our Summer Readers!!! The following three students represented the Moody School at a recognition ceremony during the School Committee Meeting on Wednesday evening, October 2nd.

Harleigh Risoldi ~ Grade 3 Mr. Ibarquen

Misha Santiago ~ Grade 3 Mrs. Pappathan

Michael White ~ Grade 4 Ms. Scannell

- Wednesday, October 16th ~ Three students will be recognized at the School Committee Meeting for Summer Math
- Thursday, October 17th ~ Grade 4 visits Tsongas Industrial Center
- Friday, October 18th ~ Recognition and Raffle Prizes for All of our Summer Readers
- Friday, October 18th ~ Grade 1 visits the Acton Discovery Museum
- Monday, October 21st – Friday, October 25th ~ Scholastic Book Fair
- Thursday, October 24th ~ Book Giveaway
- Friday, October 25th ~ Grade 2 visits the Acton Discovery Museum
- Friday, October 25th ~ Recognition and Raffle Prizes for All of our Summer Math participants
- Wednesday, October 30th ~ Halloween Spooky Story Night 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, November 5th ~ No School for Students Election Day
- Tuesday, November 5th ~ Professional Development Day at the McAuliffe School along with Murkland and McAvinnue
- Friday, November 8th ~ A Salute to Veterans Program at 1:00 Families Invited
- Monday, November 11th ~ No School in honor of Veteran's Day

Ideas/Suggestions/Topics for the Upcoming School Year

Summer Activities

- We need to let parents and kids know what is available for kids over the summer months. Consider utilizing neighborhood schools and parks to offer activities so that kids have easier access to activities. Outreach to community members, businesses and nonprofits to collaborate and brainstorm ideas to keep kids active and having fun being productively engaged during the summer months.

Open Forum

- Spirit Week or Spirit Day on Early Release Days

Next Meeting: November 13, 2019