



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



Moody Elementary School Site Council Meeting Notes

November 13, 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 226
- Grade K - 43
- Grade 1 - 48
- Grade 2 - 44
- Grade 3 - 47
- Grade 4 - 44

Budget Updates/Partnerships/Donations Update

Budget

- School budget allocation reconfigured due to decrease in student population (Grade 5 students returned to middle school)
- Available funds to hire additional tutors

Concerns

- We are getting charged for three Allied Arts staff to go to the Adie Day School, each one day a week. Request this be prorated due to lack of full-time services. Situation negatively impacts our ability to conduct weekly vertical team meetings and provide additional support to our high needs population.

Donations~ We are so grateful for these incredible book donations to promote our literacy initiatives.

- Bill Haddad has donated \$3000.00 for books.
- Melissa Newell is sharing part of the \$63,000.00 grant received from First Book.
- Liz Freeman and Bonnie Callanan are continuing to organize and distribute Book Giveaways for all students supported by Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, a nonprofit organization based in Massachusetts. Their mission is to encourage a reading culture helping children acquire good reading skills and English language proficiency as a means to empower them to improve their lives and brighten their futures.
- Middlesex Community College Dental Hygienist Program continues to provide our students with dental services and oral health education.
- Merrimack Valley Food Bank delivers food for students to take home every other Friday.
- Northeast Realtors Association donated an abundance of school and cleaning supplies.
- Catie's Closet, located on the basement floor near the cafeteria, continues to provide needed clothing and toiletries for students.
- The Lowell Superior Officers Association donated raffle prizes recognizing the participation efforts of all of our Summer Readers.

Personnel Updates

- Congratulations to Ms. Lisa Ryder who retired last week. She will be sorely missed! We are so appreciative for all of Lisa's hard work and years of dedicated service to our school community. We wish Lisa many years of good health, happiness and peace enjoying a well-deserved retirement!
- Social Worker ~ We do not have a general education social worker assigned to this school. We have a phenomenal SEL tutor, Mrs. Amy Doiron, who works with students, families, and staff to provide assistance and support to meet student needs. Amy works well beyond the allotted 18 hours a week budgeted for this position performing duties such as: leading social skills groups, providing short term, one-one discussion sessions for students who are experiencing social/emotional/behavioral problems that interfere with their learning or the ability of others to learn, developing behavior management plans to remediate problem behaviors, acting as a liaison between the home, school and community providers to access, mobilize and coordinate services, monitoring student attendance, conducting home visits, attending IEP, 504, and TAT meetings as needed.
- Grade 2 ~ Congratulations to Mrs. Amy Costello and her family for welcoming a wonderful new addition to their family, Carson John born on September 27th. Amy is expected to return in January. We are grateful to Ms. Kristin Farley who will be covering for Amy and welcome Ms. Vanessa Lamy who will be assuming Kristin's duties.

Curriculum

- *ELA* – Teachers and Interventionists are working with students to develop stronger decoding and reading comprehension skills. Through the use of 21st Century Skills, students are working to improve oral and written discourse. Our 4th grade teacher bought microphones for students to use to promote academic discourse.
- *STEM*- Teachers are infusing STEM activities into the ELA and Math Curriculum when appropriate.
- *ST Math* - The kids love it! They are engaged and motivated working independently on games that are completely visual and push them towards strong math thinking.
- *Playworks* – The program is in full swing developing health movement in students through play. The program offers students cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits.
- *SEL* - We had difficult students in past years that prompted us to implement a social emotional learning program. We continue to use MindUp as well as provide anti-bullying activities to maintain a safe learning environment. Explicitly teaching students about how to develop a Growth Mindset fosters motivation and perseverance.

❖ Professional Development Updates

- *MCEC* - In collaboration with the McAuliffe, McAvinnue and Murkland Schools, the Moody School participated in the first ever Mill City Educator's Conference on November 5th. Along with the Office of Teaching and Learning and Mill City Grows, the conference brought together over 250 educators from the four schools to make connections and share best practices with each other. Participants had opportunities to choose to attend different presentations from a range of topics of interest to each individual. The conference opened with keynote speaker, Nili Bartley, author of *Lead Beyond Your Title: Creating Change in School from Any Role*, who focused her presentation on how any staff member can take the lead be a change agent impacting school practices and cultures.
- *ST Math* - The kids love it! We have received PD and can contact the company at any time for additional support if needed. Everyone reports that the program is being met with enthusiasm and success. Jan Flynn has graciously offered to oversee our Math Program in addition to her classroom duties. She acts as a liaison receiving and disseminating weekly updates and reports from the company representative.
- *ELL Strategies* - Heidi Upton, our EL teacher, continues to provide staff with various tools and strategies to utilize with our ELL population.
- *Moody Moments* – Video Bank of ELL Strategies created by Moody Staff is readily available in Google Drive.
- *Learning walks* – Staff members are conducting learning walks by going into classrooms to learn strategies from other educators focusing on how to help student be able to explain and expand their thinking thus increasing language and vocabulary. This builds upon our previous work with DESE's Early Grades Literacy Grant as we extend our learning by videotaping volunteers who demonstrated instructional strategies in classrooms. Lessons are stored in an in-house video bank for educators to access individually or as a group to support their professional learning as needed.
- *District Sponsored PD* - This year, the district is providing writing/reading workshops for all grade levels.
- *Phonics* - Grade 3 teacher, Mrs. Patricia Pappathan attended SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) Professional Development Workshop The systematic scope and sequence supports students who struggle with decoding. Targeted small group intervention can be implemented to build foundational skills to help students boost confidence to help students become fluent, independent readers. Mrs. Pappathan is piloting the program.

❖ Attendance

- Attendance is directly related to achievement. Improving student attendance is an ongoing area in need of continuous monitoring. We need to continuously work on student attendance incentives and provide more outreach to parents. Currently we have monthly award recognition days, ice cream, pizza party incentives etc. Daily phone calls are made and home visits are conducted as needed. It was suggested that we may need to educate parents more about when it's appropriate to keep a child home when they are not feeling well based on symptoms and when it's appropriate to send their child to school. Incentive to encourage attendance on Early Release Days was discussed.

Partnerships/Afterschool Programs

Funded by our professional development funds, three teachers are offering after-school programs.

- Kids in Tech – Mrs. Priscilla Scannell (Tuesdays)
- Girls Inc. – Ms. Courtney Fallon (Tuesdays)
- Lego Engineer Club – Mrs. Tricia Pappathan (Wednesdays)

Assessment Results/Progress Monitoring

- *Student Goals* - Students have set their goals in collaboration with teachers and shared with parents. We will continue to monitor each student's progress to reach grade level benchmarks during weekly TAT and CPT meetings as well as during parent conferences. Mrs. Lisa Golner will continue to monitor progress with teachers and interventionists based on assessment results, observations and dialog making adjustments as needed.
- *Access testing* - speaking portion is low. Thinking it may be due to IT, dialect or heavy accent issues.

School Improvement

- *Instructional Leadership Team* – ILT will meet again on the Monday before Thanksgiving vacation.

Facilities/Safety

- Staff received some training on CrisisGo App.
- Merry Go Round vandalized by egg pelting. Disturbing but more of a concern are students with egg allergies. Surfaces were cleaned.
- Requesting entrance ways and stairs need painting.

Family Events

- Congratulations to ***All*** of Our Summer Mathematicians!!! The following three students represented the Moody School at a recognition ceremony during the School Committee Meeting on Wednesday evening, October 16th.
Maddex Chan ~ Grade 1 Ms. Flynn
Trishna Karki ~ Grade 1 Ms. Flynn
Bibon Subba ~ Grade 3 Mrs. Pappathan
- Ms. Jan Flynn purchased then donated raffle prizes to recognize all of our Summer Mathematician Participants
- Monday, October 21st – Friday, October 25th ~ Scholastic Book Fair was held
- Thursday, October 24th ~ Mrs. Liz Freeman and Mrs. Bonnie Callanan organized and conducted the Fall Book Giveaway.
- Wednesday, October 30th ~ Halloween Spooky Story Night was held at the school from 5:00 – 6:00

Upcoming Events/Updates

- Turkey Family Project ~ Decorate a turkey contest
- Tuesday, November 26th ~ Family Thankful Breakfast
- Wednesday, November 27th ~ Whimsical Wednesday Activity in each classroom to promote 100% Attendance
- Wednesday, November 27th Early Dismissal at 11:10
- Thursday, November 28th – Friday, November 29th ~ Thanksgiving Recess
- Pajama day
- Winter sing-along
- Roger's Hall visits
- Grinch Night maybe December 4th or 11th?

Ideas/Suggestions/Topics for Upcoming School Year

- Can we do a Penny War Fundraiser for our school to offset Field Trip expenses?

Open Forum

Next Meeting: December 11, 2019