

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION TEAM

January 30, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Tally Swanson, Paul Reed, Jennifer Jacobson, Diane Metcalf, Tami Schmitt, Michelle Devlin, Brenda Manson, John Wagner, Jeff Lunt, Chuck Lisk, Bryan O'Donnell, Penny Fiscalini, Butch Webb, Lisa Cornelson, Shirlene Fitzwater, Jeri Goebel, Donette Hope, Campbell Kirkman, Amity Butler, Mimi Tideman, Linda Williams, Michelle Reid

Welcome and Check-in

Team members checked in and reacquainted themselves with one another.

Review of Minutes/Board Report

The team reviewed and discussed the minutes from the last meeting. Norms were deemed as being maintained.

Review of Evaluation from Previous Meeting

The MSTT reviewed the evaluation results from the previous meeting. The team is committed to reviewing and working within the norms established. High performing teams review not only the content of the work they do; but, also the way in which they do their work.

Hot Topic(s), Discussion and Response Plan

The team reviewed one hot topic as an item for discussion. This item concerned staffing as it relates to teachers. The team was reminded of the importance of taking into account the feelings and impact of the transition process on staff members. With regard to these topics connected to communication and inclusion, the team affirmed several tenets of their norms. Team members were encouraged to speak their truth, clarifying they may well be speaking for themselves and not the team as an aggregate whole when sharing opinions, particularly dissenting opinions. Team members were also reminded that we will need to continue to extend one another grace as we individually and collectively respond to this transition. In essence, all matters connected to staffing decisions and protocols will be referred to Mary Hebert, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and Barry Burnett, the Port Angeles Education Association president, as they will be collaborating on such decisions in concert with the negotiated bargaining agreement.

Review of Reading Text to be Studied

Another article we looked at from the New York Times addressed what we all already intuitively feel and know that kids today are growing up faster than ever before. Indeed, the premise of the article is that age ten is the new age fifteen. This has real implications in the planning and design of our new school.

Review of Communication Expectations

Review and reminder that communication is critical in this transition work. Staff, parent and student communications continue to be a priority in this process. The communication must be transparent and honest. Michelle will work with district staff to craft succinct messages for both the website and press releases.

Review of Work Plan

Various work groups had their initial meeting. Work group teams met to address various work team topics. Work teams were expected to likely meet outside the formal MSTT time and will keep Michelle apprised of their progress. Further, Michelle is available to meet with work groups as needed or to answer questions and concerns as they arise.

Hand-out Text

The position paper from the National Middle School Association was handed out to all members. It is expected that this text will continue to guide our work.

Thanks and Gratitude

Thanks and gratitude for the continued generous contribution of time was again acknowledged.

Evaluation

MSTT members completed the meeting evaluations that assessed our commitment to keeping the norms while we deliberate.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place at Stevens Middle School on February 13, 2007, with the following meeting on February 27, 2007 to be located at Roosevelt Middle School.