

Newton Accountability Meeting Agenda, 9/29/2021

- Welcome/Introductions: *James*

Quick introductions

Present: James O'Tremba, Doug Jones (Charlotte), Lisa Svede (Lauren and Julia), Melisa Roth (Maddie and Jacob), Megan Tornello (Max), Jennifer Delaney (Cole), Cameron Morgan (Jillian), Kevin Wood (teacher)

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- NMS Accountability: *James*

James introduced that this is an advisory group.

Melisa is the rep at the district level (DAC). She'll update monthly with notes from the DAC meetings.

- DAC Update: *Melisa*

1. Covid response: Quarantine equals 5 or more linked cases within 14 days, not a district decision (Department of Health). James answered that we had 8 positive cases when we had the 6th grade quarantine. Question: what happens for the quarantined child for their education? Answer from James, Google Classroom. Required by the district to have updated Google Classroom for all teachers. Dashboard online has updated Covid statistics for the district. If an entire class is quarantined, the teacher moves to live streaming (google meets).
2. Recognizing how Covid, TOPS, boundary changes, etc... have been impacting the focus of the district and getting kids acclimated to school.
3. LPS Foundation provides mental health support for kids as they adjust back to "normal school."
4. The board has 3 seats up for election in November. Two forums: Oct. 6 through the board meeting and/or streamed. Oct. 20 DAC meeting will include a one hour forum. Questions you have could go through Melisa. James added the importance of educating our community to research and vote. 3 seats is a big deal.
5. Board meetings have become somewhat contentious. Be involved to be aware of what is building in comparison to neighboring school districts. All board candidates can be found on the LPS website.
6. LEA has endorsed Joan Anderssen and Angela Christianson to date. Andrew Graham and Dale Elliot and John Lisec are the other candidates.

- Agenda Topics Discussion: *James*
 - Our building has increased mental health support to ensure we're meeting kid's needs.
 - UIP: in the draft phase right now. Submit to the district by Oct. 15. We can review this again in our next meeting. We'll also talk about open enrollment next time. District is concerned about the size of middle schools. Next year's 6th grade is about 240 kids without any open enrollments. James anticipates lots of open enrollment requests. The first window is key. The second window dramatically decreases chances of being accepted.
 - Usually we have 150-180 open enrolled students yearly. Open enrollment has kept Newton running. 13 years ago Newton was nearly closed due to low enrollment!
 - Think about other topics to discuss next month.
 - We'll also look at growth scores next month. Our growth scores were outstanding last year! First, our teachers are engaged. Second, our schedule was conducive to being out of school.
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- Items from the Group: *Members*

When is the old building going away and the stadium coming?

Phipps' contract has caused delays. We have a gap in hiring for the new contract. It could be 3-12 months behind now. The stadium is supposed to be done in August, but delays could occur.

What percentage of students actually took the CMAS test last year? About 50%, but iReady was nearly 100%. Enough took it to give us a good sense of what is happening.

School climate survey just went out. We usually see a 25-30% response rate. 92-95% approval rating from the community in the past.

Tik-Tok: Announcement tomorrow from James. Legal and school discipline.

Conferences are Wednesday, Oct. 13, 4:30-8

msroth@aurorak12.org to contact Melisa regarding any questions you would like the board candidates to address.

- Adjourn Meeting: *James*
5:19 PM Adjournment

Next Meeting Date:

October 21st, 4:00pm