

June 18, 2024

Baldwin School Council Minutes

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

School Council Members in Attendance

Caitlin Dube, Matt Meyerson, Chunying Yue

Heidi Cook, Sara Oliveira, Susan Tiersch, Phoebe Sinclair

Also present: Christine Bustany, Serena Facchinetti, Susanna Rinard, C.A. Webb, Maeve Whitty

Public Comment

Parent Susanna brought information about Let Grow Play Club. It's a program that allows children to have independent play, maybe before or after school. Kids There are materials that allow kids to be creative, with the adult acting as the 'lifeguard'. Kids learn to cooperate, come up with their own games, and give them more autonomy. Afterschool does this. Could this be a possibility for the school? In the fall, we should dedicate a meeting to this.

Agenda: Discussion About Non-instructional Screen Time

Goal

- Generate ideas and thoughts about non-instructional screen time.
- Review the teacher ideas that were the outcome of the last staff meeting.
- Draft a proposal (if time allows).
- We will share how screens are used for instruction at a later meeting.

Thoughts from meeting participants:

- Movement and dance breaks okay.
- Why at all?
- Evidence shows screen time is linked to mental health issues.
- What is blocked? What is accessible. YouTube is unblocked? (Yes, unblocked, message of approved or unapproved videos.)
- Computer fluency is very important in today's world. How do we make sure all kids leave Baldwin with computer literacy, and from a lens of equity.
- How are we defining screen time? How are we defining non-instructional screen time? How much time? Is it the internet?
- Media literacy, teaching kids how to be safe online because we know kids are targeted with ads, etc.
- Why are teachers using screens for non-instructional time? Is it a staffing/time issue?
- If learning is done on screens, then non-instructional screen time should be reduced to a minimum and well regulated.
- They should be socializing and connecting with their peers.

- Used for incentives? Should it be used for incentives?
- Screens take away from all the great things the kids are here for ... socialization, conflict resolution.
- Is screen time for choice, free, or snack time a holdover from Covid?
- Kids and screens. Equate it with “here are the keys to the car” without any lessons. This is an amazing opportunity with attentive teachers for students to learn how to be safe online.
- Timely discussion as the Surgeon General has suggested warnings for social media platforms.

Review the ideas written by the teachers from the last staff meeting, thinking about grades they work with, what are your thoughts?

- Modify ClassLink so the only 2 websites for K access should display.
- Will restricting screens at choice time squelch a child’s interest?
- Any non-instructional screen usage should be reported to parents.
- Pushback will not be from the teachers, it will be from the kids, especially the older students. ‘This is our school guideline’ will make it easier to say no.
- Kids should be told the ‘why’, not just ‘this is a guideline’.
- Teachers stated that there should be no phones or watches in the classroom.