

MLK School Council Agenda (February 6th, 2024)

Present:

Gerald Yung, Principal

Hannah Wirtshafter, Assistant Principal

Marguerite Hick-Gweyu- Family Liaison

Sarah Carpenter, MLK JK/K educator

Piotr Mitros, parent of 5th grader

Martha Schloming, Co-Chair

Kimberly Mott (Virtual)

Alexandria Grant: JK/K Teacher

8:00 - 8:10 Norms, Icebreaker, Minutes Approval

(name, child's name, affiliation, what's your favorite vacation spot: beach, mountain, city)

Voting on minutes for last meeting:

4 approval for minutes, 1 against- Goes to next meeting because not 5

8:10 - 8:55 Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Belonging

Opening comments from Mr. Yung: Framing the work

- Curious learner and having a diplomatic perspective. How well do we know our students and ourselves? Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly.
- Reflection about how experience as a child shapes future experiences. How do we prevent this from being our students' experience?
- 45% of students have a first language other than English
- 40% of students high needs (MLL, Special Ed, Low socio-economic status as defined by state)
- Lots of churn in student population
- MLK is popular (waitlist) and not necessarily a neighborhood school
- How do we build belonging and community when we aren't a neighborhood school and we draw from many corners of Cambridge?
- In 2022 MLK had an Equity team who went through self-assessment
- Question about how we got here. District asked schools to build an Equity Team and had them conduct self-assessments. Through that, it became apparent that we were lacking things like Anti-racism policy.

Activity 1: review MLK mission statement and think about what resonates in this mission statement and what do you like?

Likes:

- Centers on belonging and relationships
- Mentions our diversity

Suggestions/Possible Changes:

- Rearranging so that all student info is together
- Should Mandarin Chinese be more at the beginning (and centered)
- More specific language about how we do differentiate include, foster
- Relationships being centralized is important and should stay as soul the emphasis on differentiated instruction
- Question: What ways do we have to center equity more? Can we mention these specifically?
- How can we make this sticky for people to learn (like an acronym?) So our kids can learn it and live it

Activity 2: review CPS Anti Racist Vision and Mission

- Suggestion to have anti-racist and anti-bias statement
- Suggestion to have a statement but then whittle it down to something bite-sized so kids know what is valued and cherished.

Gerald: Panorama family and staff ranked higher and student belonging ranked lower.

Vote: Spend time next meeting to vote on designing survey: 5 in favor

Public comment:

- Help people participate by connecting to the process. Make clear how the survey will change policy
- Make the survey anonymous. Difficult piece will be soliciting public comment.