

Oriole Park Local School Council  
Equity Committee  
Minutes  
Monday, May 6th, 2019  
Start time: 5:30pm

1. Call to order: 5:49PM
2. Welcome and introductions
  - a. Committee members present: Sara Arnold, Al Grippe, Libby Madej, Daun Vaswani, Candace McGuffey, Ewa Mascarenhas, Karen Torres, Liz Schultz
  - b. Committee members not present: Julie Fehler-Render, Matt Render, Anne Breen, Annie Rarey, Radostina Apostolova, Emily Hogan, Barb Brodsky
3. Acceptance of agenda
  - a. Sara: motion; Candace: second
  - b. Unanimously approved
4. Acceptance of minutes from the last meeting
  - a. Sara: motion; Ewa: second
  - b. Unanimously approved
5. Membership update
  - a. None
6. Update on recommendations from April meeting
  - a. Bathrooms
    - i. In person discussion with Mr. Riff: There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor staff bathroom that does lock (key in office); he was receptive to updating the sign (change "unisex" to "all gender") and having a discussion with teachers about which teacher bathroom should be the all gender bathroom
    - ii. Need to still have the discussion about how students will be able to access this bathroom
    - iii. No funding or timeline as of right now
  - b. Counselor
    - i. At open LSC budget meeting: it looks like we will have a full-time counselor and a full-time case manager for the next school year
7. Review of CPS new strategic plan
  - a. Equity is a current focus of CPS – provides a good tie-in for school stakeholders
  - b. Part of equity means putting the money where the money is needed most
  - c. Next 5 years – primary focus in terms of funding is on boys of color based on data (such as graduation rates, etc)

- d. Strategic plan can be accessed and downloaded by going to the CPS website: under Creating our Vision
  - e. Equity is part of the Core Values listed in the strategic plan
  - f. MTSS is a strategy CPS is using to strengthen equity (by 2024)
  - g. Questions:
    - i. Is the CPS strategic plan binding in any way or is it supported by the overall CPS budget?
    - ii. Is the strategic plan discussed with teachers at the beginning of the year?
8. Playworks program:
- a. Program that trains playground staff regarding how to interact with kids at recess time in order to build and support social emotional skills
  - b. Need to have consistent playground staffing for this program to be effective because Playworks trains the playground staff and ours are not always permanent
    - i. Typical OPS recess staff: One admin, security guard and another staff member (not necessarily the same person and may be an intervention specialist, who are not permanent)
    - ii. Union contract requires duty-free lunch for teachers which is why they don't monitor recess any more
  - c. Costs: All have 2-day training for staff
    - i. \$7,500: training only
    - ii. \$8,500: training and 2-3 check-ins per year
    - iii. \$22,000: training and 2-3 check-ins per month (Garvy uses this)
  - d. Question: How can we have more consistency in the playground staff?
9. Methods for sharing experiences
- a. LSC – Equity Committee connection:
    - i. Suggestion for how to build a better connection: committee brings topics to the LSC to ask if we should research further
    - ii. Question: How do we show that the topics are necessary and require research unless we collect data to show these topics are recurring?
    - iii. Options:
      - 1. Encourage people to share experiences at Equity Committee meetings, rather than using a form – move to the top of the agenda so that people don't have to wait for public participation
        - a. If people don't want to share at the meeting, use a proxy who will contact them and share their experiences with the Equity Committee

2. Use a form – beneficial for those who don't feel comfortable sharing in person and helpful for record-keeping
3. Focus group / discussion group conversations to help encourage people to share their experiences (we will build this idea out at the next meeting to present to the LSC at the organizational meeting in July)
  - a. Different focus each meeting: read an article beforehand and have guided questions for attendees
  - b. Alternate between focus group meetings and planning/organizational meetings

10. Public Participation

- a. None

11. Other business and/or announcements

- a. Digital access: How do you make digital curriculum accessible to students that don't have access to a computer at home? (same with printing)
  - i. Can student fees go directly to individual chromebooks they can take home? What happens if one breaks?
  - ii. Connection with the public library computers for homework?
    1. Suggestion: Laptop that is purchased by the school and can be used in the public library only (loaded with all of the school's digital programs)
  - iii. Are there other areas where this digital access inequity already exists? (RAZ kids, apps, etc.)
  - iv. We have a computer lab, but it needs to be monitored, so it can't be left open for student use
    1. 35 computers in there now
    2. No printer access
    3. Chromebooks don't have printer access (this would present a problem if we switched from desktops to chromebooks)
    4. Suggestion: Have times for kids to sign up for computer lab access
    5. Suggestion: Survey students to see who needs this access before doing the sign-up idea
- b. SEL: Second Step program
  - i. 4-year contract with digital version
  - ii. Paper version - we pay once
  - iii. Used by our school – not a CPS-wide curriculum, but CPS-approved

- c. Restorative practices:
    - i. People who have been trained in this could have regular meetings
    - ii. Social Worker is who deals with mental health and some counselors focus more on academics
      - 1. Question: Will our counselor focus on academics too? Or does is her role more like a social worker?
    - iii. Students and families are required to seek out mental health services on their own or show that they legally need services from the school
    - iv. Questions: Can we look for outside services to supplement our Social Worker? What options does the school have in terms of getting more services?
12. Future tasks and/or agenda items
- a. Research how other schools/districts handle equitable digital access
  - b. Fine-tune the LSC - Equity Committee connection and the plan for 2019-2020 in terms of meetings structure and how to share experiences (see underlined notes under "Methods of Sharing Experiences" for ideas)
13. Motion to adjourn (Lost quorum at 6:47PM– one member had to leave early)
- a. Adjourned at 7:25PM
14. Next Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2019 - 5:30pm - OPS Library