

**Leadership Council Notes-prepared by Kate Barnett
12/15/16**

In Attendance:

Cindy
Diane
Eric
Tricia
Sara S.
Patty
Nora
Patrice
Lisa
Janelle
Mary A.
Nasra
Fiona
Carrie
Arwen
Anna
Daega
Natasha
Sherry
Sheila
Kristen
Kate R.
Kate B.

Mindfulness:

Many classes have been getting instruction in Mindfulness from one of our social workers, Rebecca. Students have been getting in the habit of recognizing what our mind is doing and what we do when it is going in a direction that is not expected. Talked about slowing down to take in more information before making decisions. Students are also looking at when a problem is a big one or not. Mary A. led a short meditation

Principal's Report:

- New 0.6 art teacher, Gia. May want to review the position at budget time to increase to 1.0. We have gotten some funding to increase her position to do some time with ½ students.
- In our first cohort of “Mind-Up” curriculum. The next group of 10 teachers may start at the end of January and should have one more round after that. Funds have been allocated to get books and chimes for all classrooms.
- Book Study being done in Barton 101: “The Schools Our Children Deserve” by Alfie Kohn. The books are not provided. It is a good introduction to what progressive education looks

like. People who want to participate can come to Barton 101 in January. It is informal. A request has been put in to provide childcare at Barton 101.

- Moving ahead with the principal interview team. There have been suggestions to have a union steward on the team making the interview team. The posting for the job should go out in January. Cindy will begin to lessen her schedule down to Tuesday-Friday also beginning in January.
- Chief Thomas mentioned that Barton would be able to continue a conversation around healing at Barton. We are bringing Circle Keepers to continue a safe conversation. There will be a staff circle on January 30th, but there will also be an evening circle scheduled for parents. Leaders say not to expect resolution.
- Beyond Diversity: Somali Strand will be at Barton for PD also on January 30th. It is meant to help staff better understand Somali students and how to better support our students.
- District expectations for testing were not known due to change in staff. Some testing was done, but the quota was not met. Fall, Winter, and Spring tests are expected in all Minneapolis schools. The FAST is being piloted in Minneapolis, so Barton has jumped on. It is a very “fast” test. The uppers should only take 30 minutes per test, and the younger students should take about 20 minutes per test. It is linked to the standards and gives a gauge of needs in the classroom. This hopefully will allow us to put interventions in place to help students who need it. Website is in Bugel.

Discussion on Working Groups:

- *Goals*
 - How to incorporate the larger community and how to get more people on board?
 - Guests can come during usual meeting time to be a part of working groups, but more be done outside.
 - Personal invitations may be made to people not on the council. The liaison on each working groups may be the one who reaches out.
 - Bring students into groups?
 - Have longevity and sustainability of group structure (so this process doesn't have to be done again right away next year)...goals will change.
 - Have clear purpose and reasons for having the groups. Each group needs specific and tangible goals.
 - There needs to be some form of communication so that the groups can share out what they are working on or what they have decided.
 - Kindness and civility.
- *Purpose/Vision*
 - How are we meeting the mission and values of Barton?
 - Established process.
 - Be able to be more efficient and get “stuff” done.
 - Get more involvement from others in the community-broader participation.
 - Provide transparency of what is going on.

Three topics to cover in working groups tonight:

Goals-Guiding Principles-Communication

Health/Wellness (liaisons: Sara and Sheila)

Sell water bottles as a fundraiser along with putting in the new water stations at Barton.

Guiding Principles:

- Be equitable and mindful of the whole community.
- Keep in mind that health includes social/emotional, environment, and physical well-being.
- Ensure initiatives are based in research based practices.
- In-line with Barton's progressive values.

Goals:

- Increase opportunities for enhancing growth and development in the social/emotional, physical, and environmental health of the community.
 - Redo the playground. (Katie Rosen has been in contact with the district and has been steered toward the fundraising entity, met with person who did the temple playground. Would like to have a big meeting in January).
 - Look data on injuries in rubber chips vs. wood chips. Can we look at school data on pre and post chips?
 - Check-in with water instalments.
 - ROT? Where is it working? Challenge!
 - Garden work with Nora and Nicole so that it is a part of the curriculum. There is a school garden convention in January.

Communication:

- On Barton Website? Can also add a link.
- Contact Sara or Sheila with questions or comments.
- Add something to the Bugle.

Fundraising: (liaison: ?)

Guiding Principles:

- Fundraising is inclusive
- Be inclusive to new ideas
- Measured and thoughtful about when/where fundraising happens.

Goals:

- Reverse downward trend. Reinvigorate giving.
- Be more transparent about how funds are used.
- Establish a process
- Recruit and establish a committee.
 - Find someone to lead the Barton fund.

Communication:

Communication: (liaison: Arwen)

Guiding Principles:

Goals:

Communication:

School Climate/Social Emotional: (liaison: Tricia)

Our Mission for this group is:

To ensure that all staff, families, and children feel welcomed/a strong sense of belonging to the Barton community.

Our goal:

Encourage community events to learn more about each other and enhance the feeling of belonging.

Examples of events:

Somali Night

Mosaic Night

More events like this - we'll work on it. Ask what would make you feel more welcome?

Communication:

Progressive Education: (liaison: Markus or Kate?)

Guiding Principles:

Goals:

Communication: