

**Petersham Center School
School Council
Monday, September 8, 2014
3:15-4:15 p.m.
Principal's Office**

Attendees

Christopher Dodge- Principal
Wendie LeBlanc-Teacher
Tracy Smith-Teacher
Kate Arsenault-Teacher
Kristen Stanley-Parent
Lynn Scott-Parent
Debra Wilder-Parent
Angela Danielson-Parent

Objective

To set priorities and goals for the 2014-2015 school year.

Agenda

I. Connections activity

Members shared their name, role at PCS, and something they take pride in at PCS.

II. Welcome new members

New members are Kate, Deb, and Angela.

The committee is still looking for a community member- Chris will e-mail School Committee for suggestions.

III. Review of School Council Roles/Responsibilities (M.G.L)

The group read through the Mass General Law on School Councils and their responsibilities.

IV. Review of 2013-2014 School Year/ What's new at PCS?

Last year the council reviewed a parent survey with a "trial run". We revised the survey based on council feedback and responses and will re-send to parents in the Fall. The council reviewed the FY15 budget and gave feedback to Chris.

New for 2014-2015

Building

- Offices and workrooms have been restructured to maintain staff, student, and parent confidentiality.
- The school recently upgraded to broadband internet service.
- In collaboration with WeatherBug and National Grid, the school installed a weather station on the school roof. Data from the station can be obtained on the WeatherBug app or on the website. There is an LCD display in the lobby for student viewing.
- A display case was purchased with funds donated from the Petersham Branch Alliance.

District/school positions

- Roxanne Dorrie is our new Curriculum Coordinator for the district, spending her Thursdays at PCS.
- Brantley Powers has been hired as a 2 day/week OT for the school.

Curriculum

- Writing across the district is the theme based on staff feedback. Tracy is giving a new writing program, Lucy Calkins Writing, a trial run right now. She reports that it is a lot of work preparing and is pushing students further in writing but they are responding well so far. Later this year, other grades at PCS will be piloting the same program.
- 1st and 2nd grade are using a new reading assessment to gather information on their readers so that a mixed grade, small group reading intervention block can be started. The Benchmark Assessment System will level readers so that Wendie and Christina can put students into groups of 3 or 4 to get targeted reading support.
- Staff are engaged in Professional Learning Communities this year, which are focused work times between staff. Agendas are created ahead of time and minutes are taken each week.
- Star Assessments have begun in grades 1-6. Star is a computerized Math and Reading assessment used to provide teachers with data that can inform their instruction.
- A professional development calendar is being constructed by Roxanne and will be posted on the school website for student and community viewing.
- 40 new laptops were purchased this year for student use, along with interactive projectors for grades 1 and 2. Technology integration was noted as a priority last year by the council, the School Committee, and the school staff.
- Themes this year:
 - District: Assessment Literacy and Writing
 - Staff: Technology Across the Curriculum
 - Student: PCS Pride

Communication

- The office has a new student management tool, PowerSchool, that warehouses all different kinds of student data, from contact info to medical documentation.
- Staff is trying out various online media to communicate classroom news and student expectations. Feedback from the council throughout the year will provide teachers with useful information when planning for the future.
- Chris is planning a “Coffee with the Principal” which will feature updates and a guest speaker. The first will feature Ellen Miller from the Worcester District Attorney’s Office. She will talk with parents about bullying issues and technology safety. Chris is going to plan a couple more throughout the year and would like advice from council with regards to topics.
- Chris is also planning a Math Night for parents who would like to better help their children with the new Envisions Math Series,

V. Goals for 2014-2015

- Collect/analyze needed data from stakeholders (staff, parents, community).
- Develop School Improvement Plan and submit to School Committee
- Review 2015-2016 budget
- Other activities as necessary

VI. Parent Survey/Parent Night

September 18th (5:30 Chris will welcome in the Gym/6:00 in classrooms)

- classroom visits, Barre Savings Bank, Book Fair, band information, PTG
- Council members will be stationed in the Cafe to help parents complete the survey. Participants will receive a coupon for the book fair.
- Chris will develop a community member survey to gather information from them.

VII. Next meeting date(s)

Monday, October 20th @ 3:15