Report of Ad Hoc Student Culture and Community Committee

Woodbridge Board of Education

January 18, 2022

Michael Strambler, Ph.D., BOE representative & Committee Chair

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Lynn Piascyk, BOE representative

Analisa Sherman, Beecher Road School Principal

Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services

Review of Relevant History

- January 21, 2020: BOE established Ad Hoc Safety Committee to focus on "the staff and program resources necessary to address the changing and significant student behavioral needs at Beecher Road School"

- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee met three times, including a presentation from Dr. Jo Ann Freiberg, School Climate Consultant

- The Committee paused due to the pandemic and the transition of Superintendents

Review of Relevant History

- September 20, 2021: BOE established successor Ad Hoc Student Culture & Community Committee "to assess and evaluate student culture and community at Beecher Road School, including the identification of any resources necessary to address short-term and long-term goals to foster a supportive, respectful, and physically and emotionally safe learning environment," with report to the full BOE in January 2022

- Six meetings have been held, with tonight's presentation highlighting six main themes

Committee Members

- Michael Strambler, Ph.D., Committee Chair & BOE representative
- Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent
- Lynn Piascyk, BOE representative
- Cheryl Kiesel, Director of Special Services
- Analisa Sherman, Beecher Road School Principal
- Jennifer Crofte-Lofters, parent representative
- Adeline Marzialo, parent representative
- Joseph DePalma, teacher representative
- Katie McCollom, teacher representative

Overview of Committee Work: 6 Main Themes

- Building Positive Student Culture through Professional Learning

- Building Positive Student Culture through Student Activities

- Addressing Students' Mental Health Needs

- Collecting Data Related to Student Disciplinary Referrals

- Collecting Data Related to Complaints of Student Bullying and/or Harassment (linked to revised BOE Policy 5131.911)

- Safe School Climate Committee at BRS

Building Positive Student Culture through Professional Learning

- Responsive Classroom

- Choose Love (up to 5 lessons)

- Book study by new teachers: *Seeing the Good in Students* (Abdus-Salaam, Moral, & Wylie, 2019); *The Responsive Advisory Meeting Book* (Benson et al., 2018)

Building Positive Student Culture through Student Activities

- Spirit Days (e.g, wearing Beecher Blue & Yellow!)

- Whole-school activities

  - Shared Read-Alouds, Halloween Walk, Veterans' Day Assembly, Gratitude Jar for November, "Cozy Up with a Good Book," Morning announcements (including jokes!), Hoot the Owl

- Student Council (e.g., fall door decorating, upcoming Spirit Days)

Addressing Students' Mental Health Needs

- Current mental health needs of BRS students

- Goals and priorities of the BRS wellness team

Collecting Data related to Student Disciplinary Referrals

- New process implemented in November 2021 to collect such data
- In-school disciplinary referrals*:
    - <u>Grades K-3</u>: 22 students
    - <u>Grades 4-6</u>: 10 students
    - <u>Major issues</u>: Non-compliance with stated expectations; Anger or hurt leading to a physical reaction
- Bus disciplinary referrals**:
    - <u>Grades K-3</u>: 37 students
    - <u>Grades 4-6</u>: 22 students
    - <u>Major issues</u>: Non-compliance with stated expectations; Anger or hurt leading to a physical reaction

*since November 2021; ** since August 2021*

Collecting Data related to
Complaints of Student Bullying and/or Harassment

- BOE Policy 5131.911 ("Bullying") revised in December 2021

- Faculty meeting to review revised policy & procedures

- Revision of "Safe School Climate" & "Non-Discrimination" webpages

- 3 completed investigations; 1 verified case

- 2 investigations currently in process

Safe School Climate Committee at BRS

- Required by State statute, and codified in BOE Policy 5131.911

- Two meetings thus far in 2021-22; third is upcoming

- Committee has reviewed revised Policy, created a GoogleForm to track student behaviors, and is reviewing disciplinary data & bullying incidents (staff only)

Questions?