

## School Climate Workgroup

### Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2016

Members in attendance; Laura Harris, chairperson, Janine Netto, board member, Dr. Conway, Jack Walsh, Ginny Stadt, Jim Stadt, Kathy Dockery, Patricia Gomez, Alvin Holmes, Beth Colette

Dr. Conway began with reviewing the Parent and Staff surveys from the elementary schools. Parents from this survey, bullying seems to have an increase of parents disagreeing that bullying is a problem at both schools. An improvement !!

Dr. Conway noted that our Administrators. Will be concentrating on at least 2 of the survey responses needing improvement.

The last two survey questions- 1. Sum of Administrators behave professionally and  
2. Sum of teachers hold each other responsible showed decreases.

Dr. Conway noted that this survey would go out to staff to reference Professional Development the staff had . Question: Is it possible to make adjustments or get feedback to what our staff needs are.

Dr. Conway also informed this committee on teachers participating on instructional rounds at Bradley school. Building trust and confidence. Our teachers get feedback. \$180,000 grant money used for embedded Professional Development for K-3 Literacy How. Additional 24 days for specific strategies on literacy.

Discussed that maybe we do a survey from staff to see what strategies worked and make adjustments.

Notes/Questions- how many parents took the survey?

Bradley school - 101 winter survey. 40 parents for the spring survey

Irving school - 245 parents took survey in the winter with a like number in the spring. We had 100% staff participation in the survey at Irving school

Another topic under instructional rounds, -- is the sum of the discipline effective ; if the students are actively engaged then behavior would be good?? Which students were engaged independently, and was there student to student interaction? What support does this teacher need?

Patricia Gomez reported on the study circles and shared:

Study Circles: Dialogue to Change Program was designed by Everyday Democracy to help communities address barriers to student achievement and parent involvement by engaging culturally-diverse staff, parents, and students in dialogue and problem solving.

Currently there are two study circles in progress: Community Study Circles and Study Circles at Derby High

The Community Study Circles are working on the following areas:

1. Race and Equity training will be required for all staff members. School materials will also reflect a diverse population.

#### Derby Board of Education

2. Common Core Parent Support Materials in various languages will be accessible to all parents.
  3. A Diverse set of Parent Liaisons will be present at each elementary school and/or at the Board of Education. The Parent Liaison will serve to support families, children and school staff. The Parent Liaison team will be bilingual, culturally competent and aware of the impact of poverty on families within Derby.
- The Derby Neck Library has Common Core Support Materials available to families. The Library Director, Ian Parsels is in the preliminary stages of forming curriculum to support families in conjunction with the materials provided.
  - The Study circles are currently working on organizing a Black History month celebration on February 22nd with a Snow Date of the 27th. The Celebration will be held from 12:00-1:30 at the Derby Public. There will be raffles and light snacks and refreshments will be provided.
  - A cultural day will also be held in the future to celebrate all cultures.

#### The Derby High School Study Circles

- First meeting student and teachers were able to discuss their differences and find commonalities. Students shared their personal life experiences that have impacted them.
- The DHS Study Circles are in the preliminary stages and will have their second meeting this Thursday

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at 6:30 at the Middle School.