October 11, 2016

Attendees: Jackie, Sarah, Rene, Carrie, Rebecca and Debbie

Three primary roles of School Council:
1. School Improvement Plan - develop and implement
2. Community feedback mechanism (SCC Survey)
3. Provide ongoing communication to the community via regular updates to the school website and weekly Roadtown Newsletter

The meeting began with a review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2015. The SIP is a required state document and a revision will be presented to School Committee next week.

Review Goal #2: Culture, Climate and Community

Jackie explained PBIS. Last year we began to create a whole school language to guide how we interact with each other. The next step will be to have staff agree on the language and add visual reminders throughout the school. We continue to promote and use Steps To Respect and Second Steps and continue to provide leadership opportunities.

Rebecca asked if we include gender identity in this curriculum? We will be adding a statement to SIP to reflect “respecting and supporting gender, diversity and identities”. Rebecca also suggested that a “tool-kit” for teachers and parents would be useful to guide adults in addressing and discussing issues of differences.

The group had a brief discussion on PARCC; discussed that SES does not teach to the test and that overall students are not concerned about it.

Review Goal #1: Curriculum, Planning and Instruction

We discussed the ELA 2-hour block implemented in the early grades (K-2). Sarah explained how the blocks enable students to move through targeted learning areas (phonics, fluency, comprehension).

The group discussed how we can scaffold this model through the upper grades. Profiles in literacy could be shared. Lower grade teachers might share and disseminate best practices by having their classes observed by other grade level teachers.

Science: New generation of standards released in January. The standards reflect a shift in levels and materials.

Currently Social Studies is infused into ELA and we will take a look at this at a later time.
Presently, we are also implementing a newly aligned Investigations curriculum K thru Grade 5. Sixth grade currently uses Connected Math.

A question pertaining to homework was raised. In general, there is approximately 30 minutes of HW assigned with independent reading as one of the tasks.

Parents appreciate having access to learning objectives. Some teachers have posted their year long curriculum on their webpages.

In-house tech times are targeted to scaffold staff to share classroom projects via multimedia tools and alternatives.

**Next Meeting rescheduled to November 15, 2016**