

**Stratford Road Elementary School Site-Based  
January 26, 2021**

**Attendance:** Alison Clark, Andrew Paskal, Michelle LaLima, Marissa Pammer, Matthew Colicino, Jessica Wytttenbach, Kristen Durante, Dino Giammalva, Christina Ottati

**The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am via Zoom**

**Opening:**

Alison introduced her administrative interns (Matthew Colicino and Kristen Durante) who are joining today's meeting as observers.

**Cultural Awareness:**

The district began working on our Cultural Awareness and issues relating to Educational Equity in 2019. It began with a conference by Dr. Eric Witherspoon. Subsequently Dr. Witherspoon provided trainings to individual building teams. In our school the team consisted of our ELL Teachers as well as some classroom teachers. They turnkeyed what they had learned at a 2019 faculty meeting. Sadly Dr. Witherspoon passed away from Covid-19 this past year.

Currently, POBMS Assistant Principal, Dorothy Drexel is spear-heading the continuation of these discussion in POB. She attended a BOCES Workshop by April Frances Taylor. The district will be forming a committee comprised of all of the stakeholders to address these important issues.

In our own building we have worked on expanding school and classroom library literature to reflect all of our students and families. We also stress the importance of pronunciation. Asking children or adults how to pronounce their names. We have also worked on inclusive language in our communications to families. For example, instead of Dear Parents or Guardians we frequently write Dear Families to reflect the diverse make up of our families.

Marissa Pammer, Co-President of the SR PTA stated the PTA will be putting a PTA Cookbook together. The theme will be Diversity through food and how food unites and unifies all people.

### **Pick-up Patrol:**

Stratford Road was the second school (immediately following JJP) to implement Pick-Up Patrol. It was fully implemented December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Winters, our Assistant Principal, has been working hard to ensure the program is running smoothly.

Staff and families report the program is easy to use and going well. It has alleviated main offices as well.

### **Breakfast Program:**

As part of the Federal Free Meals for All Program the District has been offering free lunch for all students. It has now been expanded to include free breakfast for all.

Families have received a notice informing them about the program and they need to pre-order at least two days in advance. They can order for several days at a time.

The Middle Schools implemented it as a pick-up the afternoon before for the next morning. The administration had a concern that on the elementary level children may be tempted to eat on the bus on the way home.

We are currently tweaking and working on our systems for breakfast and its delivery.

Jessica Wyttenbach mentioned that distribution for K classes has improved. However, concerns still exist about the size of the names/tags for grades 2-4. Children frequently need to touch every bag to find theirs.

Jessica Wyttenbach also brought up the concern about the children eating, maskless again.

Dr. Clark understood all of the concerns and is working with Mrs. Winters on tweaks as we have just implemented the program.

From a parent perspective the breakfast has been very easy to order.

### **Specials in Classroom:**

At the January 25<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting the Board approved, where possible, the placement of Special Area Classes back into their own classroom.

It is recognized that this will take time to implement, where even possible, and Dr. Clark stressed that all safety precautions and protocols will be reviewed, discussed and shared with all stakeholders.

**Other Issues:**

Andrew Paskal questioned why the Men's Faculty Bathroom next to the Computer Lab was converted to a unisex bathroom while the adjacent Women's Faculty Bathroom was left solely for women. This was an issue of equity. Dr. Clark will look into and rectify.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 am.**

**Future Meetings will be shared.**

**Respectfully submitted- Andrew Paskal**