

# BC PAC Meeting

## Wednesday October 16, 2019

### Present:

- *Principal: Mr. Carlson*
- *6th Grade representatives: Margo Gillespie/Jeanne Squeglia*
- *7th grade representatives: Mary Adams/Lorraine Lalin*
- *8th grade representatives: Karen Brennfleck/Lisa Lees*
- *H&SA representatives: Catalina Maione/Amy Schadt*

### Construction Update

- *Phase 1 at Briarcliff is 98% finished. Still pending - some clean up in the Makerspace, unit ventilators are to be added in the Science Lab and Makerspace.*
- *There is still some equipment to be added which will be done over time: 3D printers, Legos, Kinex, etc. Mr. Carlson is working with Mr. Matty to strategize.*
- *Phase 2 construction to include the boys and girls locker room, air conditioning in the gym.*
- *Many parents noticed the new lock mechanisms on the lockers at Back to School Night.*

### School Security Update

- *3M tape has been installed on vestibule glass and will be added to all 1st floor windows.*
- *Staff are all wearing IDs as well as visitors.*
- *Regular drills are happening and students have been cooperating very well.*
- *Traffic flow is much improved at morning drop off and there hasn't been much back up.*

### Wellness Committee Initiatives

- *“No homework” days have been very popular.*
- *12 staff members are currently on the committee. The committee will look at other initiatives to implement.*

### Recycling and the Environmental Club

- *BC is looking to get a composter to continue reducing the amount of garbage. Current goal: reduce lunch garbage to two bags.*
- *Karen Brennfleck mentioned that more education is needed on recycling as the town is losing money on cardboard recycling. It was suggested that maybe the Environmental Club could help with educating parents.*

### Student Survey through Montclair State University

- *Our 7th and 8th graders will participate in a statewide survey through Montclair State University on topics such as school culture, wellness, drugs/vaping and alcohol. 100 New Jersey middle schools were selected to participate. The survey will take place on December 19th during 8th and 9th periods. This is an initiative through the Dept. of Health and Human Services. More information including permission forms will be sent home to parents.*

### 7th Grade Science

- *Students have a substitute teacher until December. Parents have expressed concern that the substitute does not have a science background. Mr. Carlson will make sure she has any needed support from HS biology science teachers.*

### 8th Grade Math

- *Parents have expressed concerns about the 8th grade math program, having another new 8th grade math teacher, which is the third one in three years. There was discussion on whether the class is moving too fast and students not receiving a strong foundation.*
- *Parents suggested further leveling as a way of meeting the needs of all the students.*

- *The idea of adding a class for 7th grade students struggling in Algebra 1A was raised. Mr. Carlson is confident that students who are struggling have been identified in previous school years.*
- *Another suggestion was that students who are not maintaining a specified minimum grade go to math lab or a math support PEP. Mr. Carlson thinks this could provide challenging as it becomes a teacher contractual issue but he will look into it.*
- *There were questions regarding support for new teachers. Mr. Carlson confirmed that new teachers are mentored and paired with a veteran district math teacher. Walk-through observations do occur. Mr. Carlson mentioned that the district mathematics department faculty work well together.*

### **Algebra AB class**

- *Parents have expressed concern about the pace of the class and that some students receive extra support for the class outside of school and that other students might hesitate to raise their hands when they have questions. It was asked if the teacher can add a check in /exit type assessment to make sure all students are understanding the concepts. Also, can school provide a list of concepts for this class? Mr. Carlson will speak to Ms. Melucci.*
- *An idea was raised that teachers could continue to make IXL mandatory for all classes beyond 6th grade.*
- *Leveling can only help - students get a customized math education.*
- *Discussed SLA testing and students' performance.*