

## **Briarcliff PAC Meeting**

**December 12, 2018**

Present: Principal: Mr. Carlson, Band Teacher: Mr. Price, Chorus/Music Teacher: Mrs. Kolek, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives: Emily Kahn, Mara Marino, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives: Maria Hunter, Richard Barkausas, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade representatives: Diane Bright, Tish Scarola, H&SA representatives: Cortney Hann, Amy Schadt, Erinn Tucker.

**Introductions of New Band and Chorus/Music Teachers:** Mr. Price and Mrs. Kolek presented an overview of their programs.

- Band meets twice a week during 9<sup>th</sup> period. Pull out lessons occur once a week on a rotating schedule. There is a process in place for making up missed lessons.
- There are three separate choruses – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade meets twice a week during 9<sup>th</sup> period, 6<sup>th</sup> grade meets once a week during 9<sup>th</sup> period. Students meet with their section once a week during lunch.
- Both band and chorus have additional practices as concerts draw near.
- Allied Music – the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum will not include a student piano recital this year. Mrs. Kolek feels there are not enough keyboards to make efficient use of time. The students will focus on general music appreciation rather than the piano specifically.
- Mrs. Kemp works with string students at Briarcliff during first period.

### **Student Shadow Review:**

- Mr. Carlson spent a full day shadowing a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student to gain perspective on an average school day in our building. He highlighted a few observations that stood out.
- There is no passing time between periods. Students move directly from one class to the next.
- There is a lot time spent sitting at desks.
- There was homework given in every class – this was a reinforcement day.
- Mr. Carlson will be meeting with staff to see where improvements can be made.

### **Wellness Committee:**

- Mr. Carlson is in the process of creating a Wellness Committee to focus on both the physical and health of the students. The committee is currently comprised of staff members but will eventually include parents and students.
- They have begun a review of the physical health resources in the building. Pomptonian is doing a good job providing nutritional meal options and the physical education department is second to none.
- The committee will review student mental health and look for areas of improvement.
- The staff will meet this week to set goals and norms for the committee.

### **Dress Code:**

- Several Student Government reps met with Mr. Carlson to discuss the current dress code.
- While dress code violations have not been an issue, Mr. Carlson and staff members have met to review the wording of the dress code. As a result, they will be rewording parts of the dress code.

### **Open Forum:**

- Afterschool activity options- parents were looking for clarification on what is available and for which students. Mr. Carlson included the link on his Friday Flash and they can also be found on the school website under the activities tab.
- Gifted and Talented – Ms. Melucci is still in the process of reevaluating the identification process.
- Student Advisory – Mr. Carlson is working with Mrs. Kreigsfied to reassess the program so it can be successful.
- Math – the updated Math Matrix will be presented at the first BOE meeting in January.
- A parent noted a positive improvement in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade geometry course.
- Parents asked for more valuable teacher comments on the parent portal to supplement the “speed dating” parent/teacher conferences.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will take part in an activities fair at the HS later in the year.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade will not be doing the carwash fundraiser this year.
- There was a discussion around the song selection for the Holiday Concert and changes to the lyrics. Mr. Carlson will verify. Rich Barkauskas is looking for follow up on this.