

12/13/21

Guest speaker Cameron Poole(Chief Officer of Equity, Inclusion, and Accountability)

- Focus is on equity professional learning for the teachers.
 1. Teachers 1-3 years in district the focus is different then what it looks like for teachers further in their career.
 2. For all staff the focus is on what is it and what does it mean for the students. Some examples of this focus are; What are the kids needs as individuals? Who are the kids that might be falling through the cracks? Also looking at how can teachers grow relationships with kids having trouble, and possibly build groups with parents and students.
- District is also looking at data and making improvements based on what they find.
- What does this look like at Wydown?
 1. The use of the panorama surveys will help the teachers gauge their focus. Staff will also look at academic data.
- Question/Comment and Answer:
 1. Question- How are you initiating conversations around equity in a situation where a kid may not understand what that means? Answer- By creating student learning and opportunities for kids to have conversations and ask questions (example, pack time) and creating dialog.
 2. Question- Is there training for teachers around their potential bias? Answer- Yes. The training they have dependent on how long they have been teaching addresses this issue.
 3. Question-Can you have conversations including parents? Answer- Yes but there will have to be a build-up to that and there will be more of a conversation down the road.
 4. Question- Is brave space a formal term taught to the students? Answer- It is more of a concept taught by creating safe spaces where kids can be open and honest about their feelings.
 5. Comment- Because we didn't necessarily learn about equity the way our kids are learning; it would be helpful to include parents so we can know how to support the students. Answer- Potentially the district can send out a questionnaire regarding your blind spots. Parents also have access to "Equity Corner" on the website for information.
 6. Comment- Social justice book club available to students has been a great resource for students.
 7. Question- As a parent are there things that I can do to support what you are doing? Answer- Having conversations around race and culture, asking questions about friend groups.
 8. Question- Are affinity groups producing positive results or are they maybe creating a "Us vs. Them" environment. Answer-It gives the kids an opportunity to share their experience with others that have similar experiences. There are not negative conversations the purpose is to build them up. Teachers are experiencing that affinity groups help students to feel like they belong in the community.

9. Question- Would there be a benefit to sharing what happens in the affinity group with others? Answer- We have recorded affinity groups from around the district and shared with the teachers and are learning from the experiences.

Dr. Jordan:

- We are talking about the difference between microaggression and racism with students. Dr. Jordan and administration are addressing microaggressions among as they arise and having conversations with students.
- January staff are looking into affinity listening groups. In the past staff has really leaned into book work for training but when you hear someone share their story it is more impactful, learning should include both.
- The Staff is grateful for Wydown community for supporting them around mask wearing. It allows teachers to focus on learning rather than the debate occurring in other districts.
- Staff is working on sense of belonging in the Wydown building. Student counsel having a school spirit week and a half, details are on the website.
- Wydown extra-Staff is willing to support parents if they want to have events like 7th grade event.
- Staff is looking at trying to have a fun fest in spring.

President's report:

- Minutes from last meeting approved.
- 7th grade event was well attended and was successful. Parents gave positive feedback and would like to do more similar events in the future.
- 8th grade ads for the yearbook coming up.
- Wydown wishes is an opportunity for Wydown families to help families in need.
- WMS night at CHS basketball game FEB 11.
- Hot chocolate bar Dec 22.
- Parent night out Jan 7 more information will be given later.
- New spirit wear will be available for order online on website in January.
 1. Question- Is Wydown tracking mask wearing compliance and covid vaccines. Answer- We will know more after the principles meeting with the district on Wednesday.

Treasures report:

- A little more money came in for funds for excellence since last meeting,
- A parent's employer made a match for donation.
- The popcorn bar for teacher appreciation is not on this report but will be updated ASAP.

Teacher appreciation:

- PTO is working on several events to take place in the spring.
- The cost of providing meals for staff is up due to the COVID protocols. There is a potential need to increase the budget in this area.
 1. Question- Could we ask parents to donate money for a meal for a teacher? Answer- We encourage parents to donate to funds for excellence so we don't have to ask for more money.

Clayton Anti racism collective is available if anyone is interested.

Next meeting 1/24/22 at 12:00PM. Zoom will be available as well as in person.