

HS Compact Committee

Meeting #1: Thursday October 11th, 2018 12:10 PM

Location Room 309 of the High School

Leader – Connor Cohn

Pre Meeting Ideas:

Purpose of Committee:

- To increase student engagement and participation across all ventures in Dobbs Ferry High School. This focus came as a result of the Panorama survey.
- To foster and create a **sense of belonging** in the school for ALL Dobbs Ferry High School students.

Meeting Time + Place: Room 309 of the high school during 6th period or immediately following school. Goal is for committee to meet once a month once first meeting is held.

Connection to Service Learning:

One of our desired outcomes is to increase student engagement and participation in community service and/or service learning events such as:

- Buddy ball - Tutoring and coaching with Middle School Special Needs Students
- Blood Drive
- District Recycling Initiative
- IB CAS Projects
- Senior Citizen Luncheon

These events tie into district ideal of “think globally, act locally”

Desired Outcomes:

- To make three concrete recommendations to Dr. Falino to meet the purpose of the committee to be implemented for the 2019-2020 school year in Dobbs Ferry High School
- To create a working definition of “belonging” when it comes to a student in a school setting
- To identify students who feel disenfranchised in the Dobbs Ferry High School setting and address issues they raise
- To create a database of information regarding student engagement and belonging in schools to discover larger scale trends in education
- To identify best practices to increase student engagement.

Role of Committee Members:

- To act as action researchers based on desired outcomes identified above
- To observe and document success or failure of initiatives brought on by committee
- To give honest and detailed feedback on research questions and action steps of committee

Role of Committee Leader:

- Set dates and times for meetings

- Propose research questions and actions steps for committee members
- Compile data and act as main person of contact for non-committee members on issues of importance
- Work as lead researcher and create surveys on topic while pursuing information on committee mission.
- Ultimately write and officially present committee recommendations to Dr. John Falino Principal of Dobbs Ferry High School

At Meeting:

Students in attendance

1. Sacha Cottineau –
2. Diego Kaufman Rodriguez –
3. Andrew Schwabe –
4. William Birnbaum -
5. Elizabeth Valentin
6. Rebecca Baron
7. Joliee McDonnell
8. Raquel Addona
9. Zach Holzman
10. Jack Baglieri
11. Remy Nammour
12. Samantha Straub
13. Kayla Moynihan
14. Allison Burt

Teachers in attendance:

1. Scott Patrillo
2. Amanda Newhouse
3. Terence Brennan
4. Maria Addona
5. Megan Lois
6. Wil Palmer

Two Parents in attendance

1. Jen Polimeno
2. Stephen Trezza

Origination Discussion Highlights: What does it mean to have a sense of belonging to a school or community?

Committee Input:

- Feeling valued and respected
- Having something to do and people to work with
- Feeling supported

Goal for session #2: Make a set definition for school belonging:

Large Scale Body Discussion #1 Highlights:

What are some of the reasons we see negative data results on our school belonging questions?

- Perception of athletics dominated culture. Arts and music students may feel disenfranchised based on that perception. (Is this true? / if it is not how do we combat the perception?)
- People are “turned off” or felt left behind early on in middle school or 9th grade. It is hard to get someone involved in something or emotionally attached as they get older if the bond isn’t built early.

Large Scale Body Discussion #2 Highlights:

How can we get MORE people involved and feeling like part of the school community?

- Establish bonds early: Peer leaders / Big Brother + Big Sister Program for 9th graders the first week of school.
- Establish bonds early part 2: Work with the middle school in different ways: HS + MS Theater Mix - Sports programs including modified teams more, etc.
- Don’t underestimate personal connections: Peer Leader Program - Just Say Hello Campaign (CC: Mrs. Reim + Mrs. Propersi)

Goal for session #2:

**Propose set action plans for peer leader and big brother + big sister program.
Ask for a commitment from winter and spring coaches to have an inclusive environment in their programs, mentoring sessions. Can we develop a similar idea with theater program?**

Can we / should we introduce the “just say hello” campaign?

Large Scale Body Discussion #3 Highlights:

How can we maximize school spirit and belonging at existing DFHS events?

- Publicity - Publicizing school events in a more efficient fashion?
- Social Media - Can we make a school Instagram? Can we utilize Twitter / Snapchat / Facebook to appeal to a larger audience?
- Difference between passively attending something and actively participating in something: How can we get people to feel as if they belong somewhere?
- Events through the school - How can we get people do participate in a social sense in a structured and safe environment?

Goal for session #2:

Identify a grade level field trip for each grade?

9th:

10th:

11th:

12th:

Identify a weekend night or week night we can have an event:

What kind of event?

What would be the purpose?

Service learning aspect? Food Drive?

Idea for session #2:

Do we re-do survey this year? See what a different subset of population states. Do we see if time of year matters? If we give the survey in the fall or winter as opposed to spring?