

DFHS Compact Committee Meeting #4
Monday March 25th, 2019 12:10 PM Room 300A HS

Members in Attendance:

Committee Leader: Connor Cohn

Teachers:

1. Terrence Brennan
2. Scott Patrillo
3. Maria Addona
4. Megan Lois
5. Amanda Newhouse

Parents:

1. Stephen Trezza

Students:

1. Jolie McDonnell
2. Elizabeth Valentin
3. Zachary Holzman
4. Samantha Straub

Single Minded Focus for Today's Meeting: Turning Ideas Into Reality

-Goal of Meeting: We need to turn the ideas below into set action plans. We want to have:

Time Frames

People / Resources Needed

Space Needed

Our next meeting is our last. Will be the week right after April break. We will be voting on five proposals I draw up based on today's meeting. The top 3 proposals will be proofread, vetted for ability to implement and ultimately sent to Dr. Falino for consideration for the 2019-2020 school year.

Peer Leader Program: Committee identified two different ways to set this up:

-Students apply as first semester juniors. Those accepted get matched with 8th graders during the second semester. They work with the 8th graders during the second semester of that year AND first semester of the senior year (those 8th graders freshman year of HS)

OR

-Students apply as first semester sophomores. Those accepted get matched with 8th graders during the second semester. They work with 8th graders during the second semester of that year and the following two years. (Creates a two year relationship) - More popular option amongst committee

- Staffing issues: How do we get it off the ground? Do we make it a stipend position? Do we have Mr. Cohn and Ms. Lois do it for a year and then see how it goes and create position?
- Numbers: If we want to make the position an honor how to we distribute the numbers to our leaders? (Ex: 5 8th grade students per peer leader, or rotating groups?)
- How do we serve the 8th grade population? - What do they need? These kids have been in the same building, it is more of a social - emotional partner or helper than the physical getting to class etc.

“Start With Hello” Campaign. - A more active / positive spin on stomp out bullying campaign.

Start with hello

Something concrete we can do for a week in the High School / Middle School this year. It may drive more participation than an anti-bullying campaign.

Action Steps:

Cohn and Propersi drive initiative via video and classroom visits (Last few days of Gov / Eco? See student response)

Make a Dobbs Ferry video of our own with staff, admins, students, and community just saying hello.

How do we integrate Ms. Foster? Kamke? Greater Community?

Grade level field trips. -> Start with Met Field Trip and NYC Field trip for freshman and seniors for 2018-2019 school year. Try and institute 10th and 11th grade field trips for 2019-2020.

Concrete ideas:

9th grade = Trip to the Met

10th grade = Six Flags due to all 10th graders being in Physics

11th grade = Visitation to Hyde Park

12th grade = Lower Manhattan (Supervised academic scavenger hunt?)

How? Dedicate one department faculty meeting to a grade level faculty meeting. Grade level teachers collaborate to pick field trip and set up logistics.

Chaperones? Need a certain amount / ratio. Can we do this and still have an instructional day back at DFHS without hurting instruction.

#2 Institute a spirit week and pep rally for winter and spring sports:

-Wednesday before Thanksgiving? How can we use this time better? (A winter sports / science research pep rally?)

- Early March - Hold an event with the musical group performing one number from the upcoming musical.

#3 -Completely revamp / change Senior Academy Awards

- Show IB Films during Academy Awards
- Have students announce their plans for next year
- Pre-taped faculty skits or commercials

- Cut down on senior superlatives. Or use video / increased teacher participation for presenting awards. (Seniors have stated with elements of proof they are already doing this for 2019) Can we get faculty to get to event to assess the success of these events?

Committee goals for today:

Teachers / Staff: Take a look at the five suggestions above and start looking at logistical opportunities / challenges for each.

Students / Parents: Of the five ideas above what would drive the most community engagement and what would generate the widest array of students and community participation.

Ex:

- Make "Start with hello" a town wide initiative as opposed to only in the school.
- Grade level field trips are probably the most inclusive / get the most involved.
- How many students involved in peer leader program? What consequences if they don't fulfill obligations?

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

Definition of school belonging: The feeling of being valued and respected in the school building. You feel engaged and important to the activities and success of the school.