

Horace Mann School
School Council Meetings

Minutes

January 19th, 2011
7:45am

I. No public present to speak

II. Present:

Nancy Hamill
Mark Nardelli
Maureen Berardi
Jen Conley
Susan Tuozzolo

III. New Business

Home/School Communication

Members reviewed a checklist of school activities that encourage a home/school partnership that we already do and what we need to work on. Link: <http://dpi.wi.gov/fscp/pdf/fcswelpk.pdf>

Types of family involvement

1. Group heavily involved in school: aware of academic and political issues, etc.
2. Second group: somewhat involved in school life
3. Third group – struggling to have child successful in school, Mark struggles more with this group to reach them

Overall School Communication

- Want teacher emails in Student Directory-was left out by mistake
- Would need translator or interpreter for ELL parents
- Parents complain about not getting info - not getting HM News, not reading/getting info
- Could emails be flagged differently? not BULK but labeled as discussion or announcement
- Discussion is community board can it be labeled differently – it is inhibiting people from getting info because it is a community board – don't read it
- Announce is monitored whereas Discussion is not (more of a Want Ad atmosphere)
- Replace or eliminate Discussion Board?

Parent Group #3: Those need the most support

Maybe have a series of workshops – recommend to all but target specific parents who need the support or knowledge.

Develop workshops and bring people in to offer them - Social Worker, Literacy Specialist, etc have them model so parents can see what they could do at home.

FOCUS: Blending Parenting and Learning at Home

Action Items:

1. Do a survey for community how parents like to get information, have survey go paper and email. Mark to formulate survey and send it to PTO – starting point for communication piece
2. Next time we meet – Develop short list of most pressing issues (parent wise) how to get people involved, wording of communication, use data from survey**
3. Using the above list, begin to prioritize and develop seminars that could be implemented in the spring or next year.