

THS BQMT – Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Administrators Present: Mr. Heck, Mr. LoGuidice

THS teacher present: Ms. Faith MooToo

Parent Representatives Present: Kesha Rodriguez, Patty Monaco, Zara Jamal, Diane Pittson

THS Senior Student Representatives Present: Kyle Sudu, Aqsaah, Han, Asma

The meeting began at 3:30pm.

1. Kesha Rodriguez explained what BQMT is to new attendees. Mr. Heck explained the students in attendance were selected by him.

2. Principal's Report:

- Lots of days off in September – busy month
- Assemblies stressed the message:
 - Strive for excellence
 - Get involved
 - Make a personal connection with someone in the building
- THS has conducted all its required safety drills – lock down, shelter in place, fire drills
- Lock down went well with the participation of the Teaneck Police Department
- Safety Update: blue flashing lights will be installed at several school entrances to alert staff and students a lock down is in place (gym door, main teacher entrance)
- Students have been required to wear their school student ID – will become necessary for entrance to building and media center as doors are fitted)
- Color coded lanyards have been issued to students
- Old security guards are no longer with us – six retired Teaneck police officers have been hired to be present three at a time on campus – they bring a skill set that matches security requirements for THS – They responded to an emergency in the gym, where their skills paid off
- Data Presentation at THS PTSO meeting
 - Instructional data was shared with BQMT members
 - Average staff SGO = 3.35 out of 4 points (info is used for administration and staff to improve teaching)
 - Teachers are scored in four domains
 - Not many THS teachers scored 1-2
 - Seven Highly Effective teachers are participating in pilot program for evaluation and will carry cameras to record their teaching
- PARCC scores – state released state wide data recently – THS results have not been received yet
 - Mr. Heck expressed high expectations of student performance, but there were students who opted out and other students are believed to have not taken the test seriously
- AP TESTS – 45% of students chose to take the exam
 - 4% decrease from 2014
 - 74% scored above a 3
 - 47% scored 4/5 in last three years

- SAT scores – administration is looking for 500 in each
 - In 2015 – 1431 combined
 - Reading-465; Math 487; Writing 478 average
 - Only 209 students have reported their scores to guidance at THS

3. Mr. LoGuidice discussed THS School goals – provided handout

- Academic Goal - Mathematics – change to Algebra goal from last year’s sweeping mathematics goal
 - PARCC assessment data not in yet – state results look bleak
- Climate Goal - Reduce suspensions
 - Focus on interventions
 - Reduce number of out-of-school suspensions
 - Smashed this goal
 - Hold class meetings – you hear something, say something – reduce student conflicts
- New Algebra I end of course exam links to superintendent’s goal for Algebra
 - New support for Algebra students
 - Group of students has Algebra everyday
 - Support classes have cap of 15 students to support consistency in instruction
 - No freshman orientation allows for scheduling
 - They flip am/pm schedule for Algebra to allow for instruction at different times of day with consistent instruction in smaller groups

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Kesha explained the Michele O’Reilly had spoken to Mary Beth Hubbard in the REC center regarding outreach to the senior citizen community

- Also spoke with Ms Villani to bring in senior citizens for school performances – show off our talented students
- Seniors have no Sunday transportation available, but tickets can be available for Thursday night’s dress rehearsal
- Maybe have refreshments available for senior citizens

NEW BUSINESS

5. Ms. Pittson gave update regarding BoxTops

- Collected for \$100 last year
- Provided \$67.80 for Hawthorne School
- Students should continue sending in BoxTops

6. Ms Pittson alerted us to community event - Teaneck Packathon for Haiti

- Require 16 student volunteers
- Nov 13 sessions 9-11; 12-2; 3-5; and 630-8-30
- Music provided
- Mr. Heck suggested reaching out to Yvonne Witter
- Ms. Monaco suggested student wear Teaneck BLUE to identify volunteers as THS students as this is a community event – our students complete much volunteer work – they can be visible

7. Senior graduation requirements were discussed

- Alternate assessments
- Requirements were shared with students early in year
- Concern with students who never took PSAT or SAT
- Students may mix and match literacy and math scores to meet requirements
- Mr. Heck stated THS require 160 credits for graduation vs 140
- Students must complete community service hours
- Students cannot walk for graduation unless they meet requirement
- Military entrance exam is alternative
- Portfolio assessment as option determined by supervisors and state
- PSAT SCORES should be back in December
- Accuplacer – Ms Jamal asked for practice questions available as icon on desktops? \$2 available
- Some IEP students have different requirements
- Eight new students to THS
- Kyle mentioned a noticeable increase in morning and afternoon SAT prep course
- SAT prep course is free

8. Ms. Monaco asked why PSAT registration was conducted during instructional time and not the morning of the test

- Mr. LoGuidice explained a change in registration as they align PSAT to the new SAT and PSAT registration can take up for 35 minutes requiring bubbling in advance
- This was new for this year
- Consultation with other districts – experiencing same timing issue
- Adding time to test day would affect school day status for hours in school

9. Parent-Teacher conferences

- Thank you for scheduling conferences on skyward was made by Ms. Jamal
- Concern with teachers not keeping time
- Mr. Heck stated conferences are like dr. apps – want to give time when needed
- Over 3000 conferences held
- Talk about scheduling - maybe Remove walk in times to get 40 minutes back
- Schedule 8 minutes for conferences
- Student ambassadors were a great assist

10. Thank you to Sandy Muro for robo calls translated into Spanish

11. Parent appreciate SAT question of the day on THS website

12. RECOMMENDATIONS moving forward:

- Continue with community outreach
- Await Test info
- Club news on website

THS

- Add summer reading requirements on Skyward
- Parent meeting on Skyward for new families
- Take a look at twitter @teaneckhigh

NEXT THS BQMT MEETING - Nov 18

Meeting concluded @ 4:34 pm

Emails of several new attendees

Asma.abeer.ths16@gmail.com

Aqsaah87@gmail.com

Sudu.kyle451@gmail.com

Uandnmom@hotmail.com

Respectfully Submitted by Mrs. Patty Monaco 11/3/15

BFMS

BQMT Minutes – October 26, 2015

Mr. Deubel opened the meeting at 5:35pm

The members of the BQMT went around the room and introduced themselves and shared their child's name and grade. Mr. Deubel thanked them for being a part of the team.

Mr. Deubel did an overview of the role of the BQMT

- Each school has one
- Each team should consist of parents, teachers and an administrator
- Team serves in an advisory capacity to the principal
- Meetings occur on a monthly basis
- The team must keep in mind the best interest of all students at Benjamin Franklin Middle School (BFMS) and not just those of their child

Mrs. Francis explained the role of the DAT (District Advisory Team). She will serve as the DAT representative for BFMS

Accomplishments from last year were discussed. This included the revamping of the BFMS website, indoor recess possibilities and donor support.

What's New at Benjamin Franklin Middle School

* Administrative Structure – Mr. Deubel spoke about the appointment of Mrs. Pitt as principal of BFMS. Mr. Orsini is now the interim Assistant principal for grades 5 and 7. He has worked in the district previously and has countless years of experience in education. A team member asked how the school can stay more transparent and update parents on a more regular basis. They were concerned about the administrative turnover in the last several years. Mr. Deubel explained that positions cannot be officially announced until they are board approved. He also explained that the turnover in assistant principal positions is not uncommon, and many of our previous assistant principals have moved on to become principals in and out of the district. Although this is contributing to the turnover, it is a sign that quality administrators are working in the school. The idea of a community night to share the new vision of the current leadership at BFMS was discussed. A parent wanted to know if the schools vision had changed and if previous programs would remain.

* New Staff – Mr. Deubel shared the names of the new staff members at BFMS. A parent was concerned about the turnover in the guidance position for her child. She spoke with Mr. Deubel over the summer and is pleased with the results thus far. Again Mr. Deubel spoke about the turnover concern and that sometimes changes occur that are out of the schools control (maternity leave, fit, performance, etc)

Hawthorne School

Deirdre Spollen-LaRaia, Ed.D.
Principal

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Teaneck, New Jersey 07666
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Hawthorne BQMT Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2015

4:15 PM – 4:45

Members Present:

Jemara Blount, Parent

Lois Bono, Teacher, Grade 1

Kristen Ferreira, Teacher, Grade 1

Rebecca Rivers-Alston, Parent

Deirdre Spollen-LaRaia, Parent / *Principal*

- ❖ Introduction of Members
 - Members introduced; welcome back to returning members (Ms. Bono, Ms. Rivers-Alston) and to new members (Ms. Ferreira, Ms. Blount). Thank you for being part of our team.
 - Purpose of the team is explained to members, as well as the link to the District Advisory Team. The purpose of the BQMT is to discuss ideas, questions, concerns and best practices related to the building. There is a review of district and school goals, strategic plans for the school and an opportunity for team input.
 - Attachment includes the defined role of the District Advisory Team.

- ❖ School Updates/Building Upgrades
 - New Roof complete
 - Cafeteria painted, including our teachers' and students' handprints
 - ChromeBook Cart
 - ChromeBook for each classroom teacher (roll-out in October)
 - New evening custodial staff – Attachment includes Aramark Principal Checklist for building cleanliness. As discussed with the team, building leaders met with Aramark managers in August to discuss building concerns and ensure the cleanliness of the building/classrooms throughout the school year.

- ❖ District – Superintendent Goals
 - Dr. Spollen-LaRaia shared with the team the recommended District Goals/Objectives for the 2015-2016 school year. These goals are subject to approval by the Board of Education.

Whittier BQMT OCTOBER 2015

In attendance: Suzanna Kaplan, Kara Brady, Alison Colahan, Wendy Gladstein, Kim Sullivan, Norm Steinberg, Jennifer Hooper

- Week of Resepect
 - Whittier School celebrated The Week of Respect with an assembly by Jim Vagias, Bully Proof Your School. (coordinated by Ms Coston & paid for by Whittier PTO)
 - Students decorated a tree trunk near the outreach counselor's room – the leaves defined respect and the stars articulated how students were respectful.
 - Two grade level town hall meetings (one for third grade, and one for fourth) had students respond to questions that were posed after students viewed targeted clips about bullying
- School Spirit Fridays/Character Days – School spirit days emanated from the work of SciP, and were developed to help bolster school spirit. (backward day, bring in your favorite book day)
- Vocabulary word day October 30th (very successful!!!) students dressed up as a vocabulary word. The Vocabulary Parade was a Halloween alternative that resulted in numerous student made costumes. Vocabulary words included: cognizant, starboard, strong, powerful, spunky and eucalyptus.



- Creating Stronger Community Ties
 - Whittier Neighbors came to our October BQMT meeting to discuss playground improvements including: better garbage disposal, a privacy fence around dumpster, repaving

blacktop including basketball court, repairing cracked and crumbling sidewalks at circle, installing a new fence and added additional garbage cans in and around playground. Community members and teachers have indicated that the rusted playground fence is of concern and that students have been caught in between the bottom of the fence and the ground as they have pursued a rolling ball.

- Added recycling bins
- Adjustable Basketball hoop purchased
- Norm Steinberg is a long-term community member and has expressed interest in spear heading a group to beautify the playground. We discussed their returning as we think about the prospect of possibly enhancing the physical space.