

The Bromfield School
School Council Minutes 12/12/2017
Faculty Lounge 3:00 - 4:30pm

Attendees: Chris Jones, Scott Hoffman, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Ben Myers, Sharon Cronin, Karen Strickland, Deb Barton, Kate Selig, Nancy Lancellotti

Vision Statement: The Harvard Public Schools community, dedicated to educational excellence, guides all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national and global communities.

- Principal's Update

- The "Guys and Dolls" musical had three excellent performances.
- First Winter Concert (Middle School) last Thursday, 12/7 - excellent
- High School Winter Concert on Thursday, 12/14
 - New Format worked well-great transitions
- Academic Bowl Successes - top 10% nationally in 3-2-1 Fall Competition; Bromfield team one of 16 schools selected for WGBH High School Quiz Show.
- Speech and debate continue to do well.
- Fall athletic season wrapped up well
 - Boys - MIAA Division 4 Boys State Soccer Title
- The winter sports season has begun.
- The school-wide pep rally went well - Honored all achievements, not just sports.
- Working on Social Media - Facebook recently turned off
 - Students need? Administration met with Seniors, will meet again shortly
- ER Focus
 - December 13 - Collaborative Department Time
 - December 22 - Technology Share-Out
- National Youth Risk Survey Parent Night - January 17, 6:30-8pm; action plans & parent education. Results to be made available on line.

- Finalize Composition of Sub-Committees

- Select Meeting Dates
 - Career - Ben (chair, email Colleen for tentative participant list, pick dates/times to meet), Alice
 - Climate - Scott, Ellen, and Sharon - Meet Tuesday December 19 at 8:00am
- Balance - Deb will get first meeting going.
- Select other Sub-Committee Chairs

- Focus of Balance Committee - Define what balance means; how achieve balance between academics and the rest of ones life? What can kids, parents, teachers do to help?
- **Discuss New York Times Article**
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/11/magazine/why-are-more-american-teenagers-than-ever-suffering-from-severe-anxiety.html>

Quick summary of discussion: Anxiety and stress can become debilitating for students. Social media an issue, pressure to be best; a lot of unreality on social media. How advocate for self, how to be resilient. Deal with fear of failure. Deal with expectations: self-imposed, peers, parents, high school, societal, colleges. A good fit in college is most important, and there are many choices that can give a good fit.

Other Items

Reexamine AP courses: Should there be a limitation on the number of AP courses a student can take?

- Potential Wellness Day - February 7th morning
- Role of School Council - advisory, but council and its members can make a difference.
- New Business - Please send possible agenda items to Scott and Colleen
- Next Meeting – January 9, 2018

Ben Myers, Secretary