

Community Conversation – March 28

Principal Denitzio Comments :

- Update on Diversity and Inclusion initiative:
 - Met with Professor Carlos Hoyt from the Social Work Department at Wheelock College. He also is the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advocate at the Chestnut Hill School. He studies social identity, social bias, and social justice and teaches courses on the dynamics of privilege and oppression. He works with schools and organizations in this space by learning how to pre-emptive rather than simply reactive. Principal Denitzio recently attended a training with other principals on Race, Equity and Leadership at Harvard.
 - Brian and Prof Hoyt will talk later this week to see if he will be able to work with Lincoln in this capacity and setup next steps. One of the primary goals is for Lincoln as a community to define diversity broadly and correctly.
 - One additional resource to consider is the Southern Poverty Law Center. Elizabeth Mindreau has been on their website and found some great materials they have created to help in teaching tolerance and acceptance.
- 8th grade Trip:
 - Lincoln, and other schools are trying to better define this trip and the purpose of it. Although it initially set out to be educational, administrators and parents have found that it's more of a bonding experience for the students. Once this is defined as either a strictly educational trip or more as a community based celebratory trip, it will be easier to plan for in coming years.
 - Administrators are also reconsidering how the trip is executed. For example, is this best suited for 8th graders? Is the time of year appropriate? All these issues are being fleshed out now.

Food /Wellness Policies - District Update (Margaret DeBruin and Diana Samarasan)

- Brookline Public School District is revising their current policies on wellness and nutrition. These policies impact physical education, food, and impact inclusion of all students.
- The revision is updating policies on:
 - What food is available for snacks, fundraisers, and community events;
 - How the meal plans are executed at the nine public schools;
 - General nutrition policies;
 - Physical education;
 - Also including implementation guidelines for administrators at each school
- The current revision is set to be finalized at the next meeting which is scheduled for April 5.
- Samuel Zimmerman is the contact person at the district level (for anyone who wants to make a public comment before finalized): samuel_zimmerman@psbma.org
- Some red flags that jumped out to Diana and Margaret include:
 - While the policy states there is a field trip policy regarding food safety, it is not included in the current revision
 - There is no district-wide policy on breakfast shares and events such as the 1st grade Thanksgiving feast
 - No policy on candy in school. Currently at Lincoln the Middle School teachers give out candy as rewards and incentives and that touches on many issues such as: obesity, diabetes, braces, etc.

- Margaret and Diana have a letter that they are sending the committee with the issues they see with the draft revisions, they are happy to send it on behalf of the Lincoln Community or people can send their own letters, or just sign their letter as well.
- Brookline Public School Facebook page is followed closely by the committee, so that another place parents can voice concerns.

Sock Hop / Dance Party - (Jen Shea)

- Volunteers are needed to help with: set-up, clean-up, serve food, etc.
- This year there will not be a fee to attend, but there is a suggested donation.
- Will have a DJ

Science Night

- Still need more volunteers
- Planetarium tickets will be available online, to avoid the chaos that ensued with tickets last year.

Parent Groups

- Currently looking for some at-large board members for the PTO
- A new executive committee/officers are needed for next year. Elections will be held on May 19
- Lincoln School Advisory Committee (LSAC) has a few opening as well. This committee works with Principal Denitzio in creating school improvement plan for following year
- SEPAC - Marina Ostankovitch is school rep
- Lincoln Extended Day - Sarah Silverman and Jodi Hecht are the reps

Lincoln Traditions

- Some ideas floated for potential new traditions include:
 - School newspaper
 - Student Council
 - Yearbook extending beyond 8th grade
- Hopeful that with the contract in place now maybe some more traditions will emerge.