

Community Engagement - Superintendent Hire Input to DAC Representative

Amy Ryan, our DAC representative, was unable to attend the SAC meeting; however, requested that we compile and email her our questions for the Superintendent interviews to her after the meeting. The committee discussed questions and sent them to Amy on Wednesday, December 7.

Ashley updated the committee on the status of the interview process. Virtual interviews are being conducted with candidates. Finalists will be announced on December 7th. An interim superintendent will be chosen by December 21st and enter into a contract agreement from January 9th to May. If no one is chosen, the process will begin again in the January-February timeframe.

SAC was also asked to discuss qualifications for the new superintendent. The following were suggested:

- Teaching and/or administrative experience
- Past evidence of repairing trust in a district
- Commitment to longevity
- Ability to provide a five-year plan
- Doctor of Education

Safety Update – General Safety Protocols

Ashley presented the General Safety Protocols being used by Gateway staff.

- **Vestibule Entrance, Front-Desk Sign-In, Rapture Software Program**
Guests are required to face a front entrance camera before locked doors are opened, then sign-in at the Front Desk. If guests are new to Gateway, they are asked to provide a driver's license. Staff can use the driver's license number and the Rapture Software Program to ensure the guest does not present any danger and be provided with scripts for appropriate responses if a guest's name is flagged for any reason.
- **Red Backpacks**
All teachers have a red backpack that is easily accessible in their classrooms. The backpacks contain a class roster, first aid kit, juice, water, snacks, flashlights, and an emergency blanket. They also have laminated signs to signal if their class is accounted for and safe (Green), in need of medical assistance (First Aid), or additional assistance is needed for an emergency (Red.)
- **Monthly Drills**
Fire and safety drills are held monthly. Students are taught where to go in case of a fire (grade-level numbered areas in the school field), how to leave the building in a safety drill e.g., running zigzag, where to go in case of emergencies, locations off-campus, and how to shelter in-place.
Ashley shared a recent non-scheduled fire drill experience due to burnt popcorn setting off the fire alarm. Students were in "Discovery" sessions and not with their regular classroom teachers or in their grade-level classrooms. Students exited the building calmly and joined their classroom teachers within 4 minutes!
- **Window Coverings**
All classroom doors have window coverings to prevent an intruder from seeing inside the classroom.
- **Door Tools**
All classroom teachers have a tool they can use to further secure/lock their doors. For example, the fire department provided old fire hoses that are cut to fit over the arms of some door opening mechanisms and add an additional barrier to opening the door.
- **A.L.I.C.E**
Teachers are trained to use "ALICE" in case of a school emergency: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. They will also text Ashley if a student is missing from their classroom. Students are taught what to do in case of an emergency using a story about a wolf.

Ashley explained the “Grow a Grinch’s Heart” initiative being implemented this week. Students were challenged to grow the Grinch’s heart 6 sizes by performing Acts of Kindness. For every 50 Acts of Kindness, the Grinch’s heart will grow one size. Hearts depicting the acts are being collected and will be posted along with the results at Family Movie Night. If students can grow the heart 6 sizes, an extra treat will be given at the end of the movie.

Leadership Day

On **Wednesday, December 21st**, parents are invited to spend the day at Gateway from **8:35 AM to 3:15 PM** learning how our students lead! Join the staff and students for a Sing-Along, Refreshments, Discovery Groups, and Classroom Holiday Parties. Plan on spending the entire day with your student.

National Popcorn Day

January 12th is National Popcorn Day! Each classroom will be given the opportunity to buy regular or flavored popcorn. Flavors are to be determined and may include Kettle Corn, Cheddar, Carmel, or other varieties.

Planning Meeting for Retro Night

Kristin would like any parents who are interested in assisting with Retro Night to attend the planning meeting on **January 16th** for Retro Night. The time and place for the planning meeting is to be determined. For parents new to Retro Night, it is an indoor carnival-like evening with games and refreshments that has been extremely well attended in the past by students and their families. Organized by the Parent Group, parents and staff assist with running games and serving refreshments. A Sly Reply will also be sent soliciting volunteers and donations.

Cultural Night

An exploration of different cultures, customs, and foods, students visit stations highlighting different international countries. They make passports which are stamped at the stations to show how many countries they visited. This event will be held in February.

Retro Night

Retro Night is scheduled for **March 3rd** in the Gateway Cafeteria and Gym. Mark your calendars now for this fun, family event.

May Fest

May Fest is a sports-like competition that challenges students’ athletic skills. More details to follow for this event which will be held on **May 26th** – weather permitting.

Agenda item: **Principal Report**

Presenter: Ashley Lawson

Culture and Climate

Ashley shared the results of a staff survey from the Beginning of the Year (BOY) and Middle of the Year (MOY). The staff used words like positive, family, driven, stable, cheerful, family away from family, content, helpful, friendly, welcoming, supportive, and busy to describe the Gateway School environment. She summarized the following data points:

- BOY 100% safe
- BOY 100% met expectations
- BOY 98% satisfied with professional development and growth
- BOY 90.3% had a good start to the school year
- MOY 96.4% enjoy working at Gateway
- MOY 100% felt they were growing professionally as a leader

Discipline

So far this year, Ashley reported 24 disciplinary actions with 17 students. There have been 5 suspensions. On the positive side, 169 shoutouts have been given for positive recognitions of 113 students. These are highlighted during morning announcements.

Ashley and the Gateway Staff approach discipline using the following:

- Love and Logic Principles by Foster Cline – Ashley noted there is also a book for parents titled “Parenting with Love and Logic” if parents are interested.
- Consequences with Empathy
- Restorative Circles – both students involved in an altercation talk about what happened, how it felt, how to prevent it from happening again
- Restorative Consequences – the consequence relates to the offense. For example, if a student throws food, they are made to clean it up.
- Dumping and Filling Buckets – teaching students to express how they feel using a bucket analogy – expressing when someone has hurt their feelings (dumping their bucket) or has filled their bucket by an action or words that made the student feel good about themselves or what they are doing.

Ashley also explained her goal is to give discipline power back to the teachers and avoid having children sent to the office. She reported that 95% of discipline issues are now being handled in the classroom. Teachers then use DOJO to inform the parents of these issues.

When students are sent to the office, either a student is given a warning or parents are contacted based on the gravity of the issue. Students are required to call their parents and tell them what happened, which often is enough consequence for remediation.

Leader In Me

“Leader in Me” is an evidence-based, comprehensive social/emotional framework that builds leadership and life skills in students, creates a high-trust school culture, and lays the foundation for sustained academic achievement. The framework and curricula are based on the “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen R. Covey. Gateway first introduced and trained teachers and are now implementing the framework with students in the second year of the program.

The framework is implemented via the following committees, sub-groups, and classroom goal setting

- The Lighthouse Team – shared decision making
- Leadership Action Teams
 - Culture (Climate, Traditions, Safety)
 - Leadership
 - Academics
- Classroom Mission Statements

Ashley reiterated during the Leadership Day on December 21st more information and examples of how students are taking Leadership Roles in the school will be presented. In the future, Gateway hopes to have parent participation in Parent Lighthouse and Action Teams.

Discovery

Ashley concluded her principal’s update with a summary of the Discovery Program at Gateway. In addition to “Specials” that are offered – Art, Music, Physical Education, Guidance (Leader in Me Curriculum), Careers, and Library – Gateway is offering Discovery classes where students can explore various skills. These sessions are held from 2:30 – 3:15 and mix students from all K-5 grade levels. Student Ambassadors help younger students access the correct classrooms.

Initially, staff provided the skill opportunities. The second Discovery Session offered skills proposed by staff and students. Ultimately, Gateway hopes to have the Discovery Session Topics completely student driven and enlist parents who can teach skills not held by the staff.

Agenda item: Next Meeting Agenda and Adjournment

Presenter: Heather Scholz

Heather requested topics for the next SAC meeting agenda. Samantha shared that DIBELS and IREADY Data from the BOY and MOY will be ready to present. She previewed that timing of interventions for students who are marginally achieving grade level academics and those that need intensive interventions was changed this year. Gateway is

refocusing efforts to the beginning of the school year as opposed to later and will share the impact of that decision at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2023, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Gateway Library.

The December SAC Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.