

Linden STEAM Academy School Site Council

<https://zoom.us/j/96823101072?pwd=b3NuRTRoTHJqRHNOV0JtY0paRGV4dz>

Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021
6:30 PM

Time:

Requested By: Rafael A. Garcia Jr., School Principal

Attendees: R. Garcia, L. Hanifan, R. Gray, K. Bryson, E. Garhart-Smith, C. Cannatella, E. Elliott, J. Nightingale, H. Provenzano

Notes

Welcome

Approval of minutes from May 13, 2021

- Approved

Public Comment

- No hands raised

Principal's Update

- MCAS is wrapping up. A few makeups completed this week. Assistant Principals. Stacey & Julie, did a great job organizing. Teachers did a great job administering. Most students participated, only a few students opted out.
- On 5/31/21, the building will be closed for Memorial Day.
- Raising of the Progress Pride Flag will be on Tuesday 6/1.
 - There will be a Pride Celebration Ceremony on Friday 6/11, including poetry readings.
- Picture retake day will be 6/2/21.
- Juneteenth Celebration will be on 6/16; celebration will include a Flag Raising ceremony.
- Thursday 6/17 will be the last day of school with 11:00 dismissal, but a full day for staff.
- Ray is sending out weekly emails to LSA families on Sunday to highlight activities for the week. Additional details are shared with staff in the daily memo.

Update on Celebrations and Events

- 8th grade moving on ceremony will be held on 6/16, tentatively scheduled for 5-6:30. There will be a walk up ceremony with announcer, music, certificates and goodie bags. Photo ops will occur after the ceremony with staff and teachers.
- K celebration will be virtual on 6/15.
 - Times will be staggered to allow for 2 simultaneous zoom meetings.

Elections for School Year 2021-2022

- Ray received an email from the PTO to send out, which he shared on connect ed, class dojo, and on the website.
 - Nominations are due by 6/4/21.
 - Votes are due by 6/11/21.
- Eden shared that Denise said parents have volunteered for SSC.
- Thank you to Denise for creating a Google Form which made the process to volunteer much easier!
- There is a link for families to vote for nominees that will be shared on dojo, connected, website, and twitter.
- Staff nominations have not been determined yet.
 - One seat will be open as Lisa is finishing 2nd year.
 - Suggestion that 2 teachers leave this year so there's a stagger of staff changes.
 - Suggestion that parent members are also staggered.
 - Suggestion to clearly outline terms of members, either a one or two year term.

Uniform Policy

- Link survey results
 - [Staff](#)
 - [Family - Graphs.pdf](#)
 - [Families Yes](#)
 - [Family No](#)
 - [Students](#)
- Great responses from the survey. Findings lean slightly towards no uniforms.
- About 400 families responded to the survey.
- Cynara commented that the outreach with the survey was great--many reminders across many platforms.

- Rachana shared that many students liked uniforms after voting them in.
- Cynara shared that at this time she does not think uniforms are appropriate.
- Many members shared that Linden should not wear uniforms since we no longer have school choice in Malden.
- Lisa shared that it's extremely difficult to enforce as a teacher.
- Elaine shared that since we are neighborhood schools, we should not have uniforms and that she will go by what parents & students want.
- Jasna shared that she finds the cons of uniforms outweigh the pros.
- Follow up conversation around dress code has been recommended.
 - We would follow the Malden Public Schools dress code.
- Encourage more spirit days.
- Consider offering more Linden gear to purchase.
 - Take price point into consideration
 - Look into grants to support purchasing
 - Include LSA gear as part of prizes--water bottles, t shirts, headbands, etc.
 - Kevin Graham commented in the chat: "For the spirit wear its called cameo and heat press. The school can use the profits to improve any incidentals."
- Some concern raised around spirit wear and PBIS prize involvement
- Eden made motion: "Do you want a uniform policy? Yes or No." Lisa seconds
 - Eden: No
 - Elaine: No
 - Lisa: No
 - Heather: No
 - Rachana: No
 - Cynara: No
 - Jasna: No
 - Kym: No
 - Ray: No
 - Unanimous decision that Linden will not enforce uniform policy beginning in 21-22.

New Items

- Elaine shared that the Flower Fund will purchase a gift card for Denise.

- Cynara asked if families could contribute to the gift card from the Flower fund.
- Cynara & Eden made a motion to create a task force to purchase a gift for Denise, who is moving on from Linden PTO.
 - Task force will work on the message and form. Ray will check on legality of it.
 - Eden, Cynara, Ray, and Rachana volunteered to be on the task force.
- Last meeting of the year will be Tuesday 6/15 @ 6:00.
- Moving up will include meeting teachers for next grade level virtually.
 - Students will be notified over the summer of their next teacher.
- Question asked regarding sharing vaccination information for students. At this point, that information is not being gathered from families.

Personal Privilege

- Eden thanked all members for their time and commitment.
- Lisa thanked Eden for acknowledging that.
- Elaine has really enjoyed getting to know the parents.
- Ray would like to thank the families, teachers, and students for their patience with the internet outage on Tuesday. Ray would also like to thank the council for the work that they did to prepare for LSA SCC meetings, especially in regards to uniform policy.

Adjournment