

Linden STEAM Academy Notice of Meeting

Organization: School Site Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location: In-person or Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/95447092128>

Requested By: Rafael A. Garcia, Linden School Principal

Minutes

I. Roll Call

- All members present.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2022 meeting

- Minutes approved.

III. Principal's Report

- Catapult Learning–Tutoring program coming out of Esser funding. Tutoring students that need help moving up a few levels in literacy.
 - Heather shared additional info: Catapult is servicing students in K-3 who are identified as some risk in literacy. Catapult has hired their own tutors and uses their own curriculum to work with small groups of 4 students in the Health room. There are coordinators on site to support the students & Catapult staff.
- Varsity Tutors will provide before & after school tutoring for all students K8 in all subject areas.
- Family volunteers have started helping out in the cafeteria and library. It's going very well–students are happy to see their grown ups in the building and to see additional friendly faces.
- Stop the Stigma day was celebrated today. Gr 5-8 students wore blue ribbons to celebrate. Paul Hammersly came in today to visit & observe. A photo was posted on Dojo with a banner & Mr. Hammersly. Ms. Pattershall is working with 5-8 students during Health to spread Stop the Stigma during this month of February.
 - Elaine added that there are more supports available for families, such as monthly meetings & resources:
<https://www.maldenovercomingaddiction.com/malden-overcoming-addiction>
- Linden PTO bookfair will be running 3/14-3/18 from 8:30-1:30 daily. The fall bookfair was very successful and we're hoping to double the sales this spring!

- Title I Magic Show Monday 3/14 @ 6. Please be sure that students attend with an adult.
 - Elaine asked: Would it be possible to open the bookfair during the Magic Show? Could it be open before the magic show? Could teachers add a wishlist for parents to contribute to?
 - Heather added: Top 3 literacy curriculums would be available for parents/guardians to browse & rate using rubric.
- Read across Linden
 - Heather shared updates:
 - Mrs. Tringale (Gr 4 teacher) created a March Madness Tournament of Books that students are excited about! All books available on epic.
 - Mystery Reader Challenge was shared with all students/staff the first week of March. Classes listened to a read aloud & guessed who the 14 mystery readers were. Prizes were awarded to the classes with the most correct answers thanks to Title I funding
 - We've invited parents to read aloud to classes virtually either in a Google Meet or recorded on Screencastify. We've had some great feedback from families, students, and staff that this is going well!
 - Bingo for Books is being held in Gr 7 ELA blocks to win chapter books from Title I.
 - There will be a door decorating contest during which students/staff can choose an author, series, or book to decorate their door. A slideshow of doors will be shared with the school & on Dojo.
 - We'll be holding a book drive. We're currently asking staff to bring in good to excellent condition books that will be organized by genre/level. We'll extend the invite to families send in books for the book drive also. Students will all go home with a book of their choosing from the book drive.
 - Kevin shared that he thinks it's great that our students see adults read.

IV. Memorial Service Update

- Celebration of life service for McKenzie was rescheduled to Saturday in the auditorium from 11-2.
 - The family asks that everyone wear bright colors.
 - There will be a video collage to welcome visitors.
 - There will be speakers.
 - The mayor will be the Master of Ceremonies.

V. Black History Month

- Kevin shared that he remembers the first Black History Month. Kevin shared that his daughter prepared for Black History Month by watching the Harriet Tubman movie caused her to be upset (dismay, anger, upset). She created a project to share with class & felt it had to be a Civil Rights activist. Kevin shared that his report was about Red Auerbach for Black History month. His question is: Are we teaching about all of the people who contributed to the Civil Rights Movement and emancipation, people of all color?
 - Lisa shared that she talks about heroes all year long and that students are encouraged to choose any hero for their Black History Month project.
 - Elaine shared that she believes we should teach the history but we also need to teach about current activists and connect to students' current lives.
 - Lisa added on that the 1st grade team is extending their research/readings to include a broad range of activists during Black History Month.
 - Kevin shared that it brought up a lot of great questions in his family. Kevin questions the benefit of reliving a tragic part of American History.
 - Elaine shared that she's uncomfortable with the way history is taught in general. Elaine also shared that the Globe highlighted local black people and she learned a great deal.
 - Ray shared that when the new superintendents began in August he discussed how to celebrate these months. Ray shared that we're moving to celebrating the accomplishments of amazing people all year long. It is going to change but it will take time.
 - Rachel shared that we should discuss history at an age appropriate level. She also shared that she hopes that we will be doing anti-racist instruction and teaching them history so that our children are knowledgeable and agents of change.
 - Heather shared that the district is purchasing a new literacy curriculum and looking to greatly improve the diversity so that students are learning about great people, reading great, diverse authors, and see themselves in books all year long. The hope is that the new curriculum will provide resources for teachers to teach all students.
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VI. Masks

- The school committee lifted the mask requirement this week.
- Ray shared that 95% of students are still wearing masks.
- Ray shared that he's continuing to wear masks for a variety of reasons, including to stay healthy and to ensure students feel safe in their choice to keep their masks on.
- Elaine shared that she was nervous about the mask mandate but she's been very happy with the way the school has handled it. Her 5th grader had a classroom

discussion about how they feel about it. She thanked the school for handling the situation well.

- Kevin shared that the superintendent highlighted that respect is expected with all mask choices, which he found a reflection of Linden's expectation of respect. He feels good about dropping his kids off at Linden daily.

VII. New Items

- Rachel shared that there's a Linden family facebook page. She shared some facts from our meeting on that page. Rachel asked if the committee is okay with sharing news/updates on facebook. Rachel questioned if it's okay/legal to share.
 - Kevin shared that he's seen the posts & he's happy that she's sharing the work we're doing as well as sharing that we have a site council.
 - Elaine has seen it as well & appreciates that she took one for the team.
- Kevin asked if there is a school government.
 - Ray shared that the 6-8 students are participating in the school government, which is run by the G. 6-8 social studies teachers. They're discussing how to make the school safe and inviting. They are building the structures for the student government for next year.
- Elaine thanked the committee & parents for all that we do.
- Kevin thanked the teachers for all that they do.
- Elaine questioned if there are concerns with lunches.
 - Ray shared that there haven't been
 - Kevin shared that this was facebook drama because a parent took a picture of
 - Rachel shared that it's important that we're supportive of the school lunches so that students are comfortable eating the lunches provided.
 - Heather shared that the staff in the lunchroom are ensuring students are getting lunches, eating something, and have ample choices.
- Elaine shared that the PTO will be sponsoring a multicultural night on 4/8/22.
 - More information will be shared.
 - Celebrating food, music, and dance.
 - PTO has currently invited admin & teachers to help.
 - Elaine suggested that Mrs. Smith share the posters students' made about their cultures for this event.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 4/13/22.
- Kevin asked if we could close the meeting in honor of Ukraine.

VIII. Adjournment