

June 1, 2015 PCO Meeting Minutes

Christy Fitzpatrick Burns read the PCO mission statement.

Christy announced that there are four Executive Committee members stepping down. Four people were nominated and all four will be joining the Committee in the fall. New members:

- Tracey Armant
- Denene Hefflin
- Ryan Little
- Erica Levin

Guest – Mandy Cribbs

Justin's last day is June 19th. Mandy will step in beginning this summer as the interim Principal of the Upper School (US). She will hold the position until a permanent person is hired. They will search both internally and externally. She plans to stay in the same direction that Justin and she planned for the 2015-16 school year.

Question- What may change?

Mandy- nothing will change. Mandy explained that they will keep the ticket system, level 0 in the halls which brought a sense of calmness to the school. Other initiatives that will remain the same include keeping the kids outside, technology safety, whole child approach, and parent/principal monthly coffees.

Question- Can you make sure report cards are still moving forward in the same direction, more explanation and descriptions rather than just a letter grade?

Mandy – yes

Mandy- comment: there will also be an internal and external search for an interim Vice Principal. They are using a hiring firm to help them search and want to find someone who will commit to the position long-term.

Comment- A parent stated that they appreciated the social media training and hopes it continues.

Comment- A parent stated that it was hard last year for the 3rd graders to move into 4th grade and she would like to see more done for the 3rd graders before they move up. She suggested more trips from the US Principal to the LS. They could even send video messages to the 3rd graders.

Comment- Justin had a lot of follow-through; he was very good at responding to emails, phone calls, and in-person requests. Mandy said she will be just as accessible.

Mandy- Comment: Justin plans to stay in touch and keep the lines of communication open with ECS after he leaves.

Question- is the school still pursuing DuoLingo?

Mandy- yes, Todd Hoffman is taking it over.

Comment- a parent mentioned that for 6th grade activities, she is requesting that none of them include screens if they continue it in the fall. She would like them to continue this in 7th grade but with no screens involved.

Mandy comment: the goal is to choose activities that are a combination of teachers and students interests.

Parent comment- my 6th grader has complaints that they don't have enough time during the day to chat with friends, i.e. 0 level in the halls.

Mandy comment: we are going to increase lunch to 25 minutes, this will allow more time to eat and to chat with friends as well as keep the café cleaner.

Parent question- do you ask kids about cafeteria food choices at the end of the year? What they liked and didn't like?

Christy- comment: Yes, Kelsey seeks input from students.

Comment: my kids don't like salad dressing. They won't eat the salad at school because of the dressing.

Christy- at the LS we put it on the side or don't put any if requested. The US doesn't, they serve salad with dressing. It can get difficult to accommodate every student when it comes to food. We also have to follow certain rules set by the Government to meet free/reduced lunch standards.

Comment/Question- a parent mentioned that they were surprised the US didn't have a salad bar.

Christy- there are categories/costs relating to lunches and a salad bar moves ECS to another category with Government standards.