



**Lowell Public Schools**  
Moody Elementary School  
158 Rogers Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-937-7673



## **Moody Elementary School Site Council Meeting Notes**

**Introductions/Attendees:** Mrs. Keefe, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Golner, Ms. Netishen, Ms. Fallon, Ms. Cowart, Mrs. Angluin, Mrs. DeSousa, Katey Blake, Sue Harmon, Vieroska Jimenez, Nicole Irvine, Patricia Kennedy.

### **SSC-What is it-defined.**

#### **Moody School Demographics/Personnel**

There are a lot of changes in our school this year. We are now a grade K-5 school. We lost our preschool program last year and now house two fifth grade classes from the Sullivan Middle School. We are fortunate to have three wonderful teachers from the Sullivan, including a new math resource teacher who was a grade 5 teacher at the Sullivan. Ms. Sherianne Kinney and Mrs. Martha Martin are our new fifth grade teachers and Mrs. Gayl Hurley is our new Math Resource Teacher. We also have a new ELL teacher, Mrs. Heidi Upton. Our first grade teacher Mrs. Lisa Klobucher looped with her students to second grade. Mrs. Tricia Pappathan went from being our Content Literacy teacher to becoming one of our third grade teachers. Our ELL teacher, Mrs. Lyndsey Gill, is now our Content Literacy teacher. Third grade teacher Mrs. Sarah Donovan moved to a first grade teaching position. We wish them all the best in their new roles. We also wish Mrs. Kara Aspetti, Mrs. Stacey King, Ms. Kara Miles, Mrs. Lisa Hogan and Mrs. Samantha Dumas the best of luck in their new home at the Cardinal O'Connell. We will miss them and their young students!

#### **SEL Curriculum ~ PowerPoint Presentation**

Evidence from our data collection indicates that we need an SEL program to address the social/emotional and behavioral needs of some of our students. In response, we instituted a social emotional program in all grade levels K-5. We are piloting a SEL Program called Mind Up, published by Scholastic. This researched-based curriculum features 15 lessons that help all learners focus their attention, improve their self-regulation skills, build resilience to stress, and develop a positive mind-set in both school and life. Areas addressed include:

1. Self-Awareness
2. Self-Management
3. Social Awareness
4. Relationship Skills
5. Responsible Decision Making

This is a School-wide effort that encompasses ongoing professional development for all staff members. The program is broken down into levels, Pre-K -2, 3-5, and 6-8. We are in the process of ordering all of the recommended texts for each lesson.

#### **Afterschool Programs**

We are pleased to be able to offer some after school enrichment programs for our students. Programs started September 25, 2018. Kids in Tech is an computer science programs that advances computer literacy.

Students have opportunities to go on field trips to biotech companies to experience real life application of science, math and engineering. The program is run each Tuesday and Thursday by a trained volunteer assisted by Mrs. Priscilla Scannell. Girls Inc. offers programming on Thursdays assisted by Ms. Courtney Fallon. Ms. Netishen is running sports games on Tuesdays. Mrs. Winer is offering Jewelry Making on Tuesdays. Ms. Kinney is doing a Robotics Club on Thursdays and on Tuesdays and Thursdays Ms. Pappathan is doing Code.org. Sometimes our students are unable to take advantage of these opportunities because we are unable to provide transportation. We have no funding to do this. We use our own PD money to fund these programs and we're very grateful to Girls Inc. and Kids in Tech for donating their time to support our efforts.

### **Budget**

This year we have \$15,280 for the whole school to operate. On the city side they are also experiencing financial challenges. We need to push for our schools to be appropriately funded through the foundation budget. Some of our challenges include:

Staffing issues ~ ½ time ELL teacher to support our ever growing second language learner population, ½ time Math Resource Teacher, fulltime social worker services.

Technology ~ Need more computers especially to support our new grade 5 classrooms. Currently the two grade 5 teachers share 1 cart where they each had their own in the middle school.

To date, i-Ready has not been funded this year.

Materials and Supplies ~ We don't even have a working copier in the office. We cannot fax, scan, copy, etc. That won't stop us from teaching the students. We have plenty of notebooks that were generously donated as well as those that were purchased by the school and supplemented by the district..

Facilities ~ We needed a new floor in a first grade classroom so we are pleased to report that this is being addressed. We are getting a new ceiling in the boiler room, which needs to be done before we can turn on the heat. We love our school. It's very old, but strong.

### **Progress Monitoring**

Last year we were level 2. We had good growth from the 3rd grade to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Our current 4<sup>th</sup> graders need a lot of assistance helping them to meet grade level standards. We are very fortunate to have paraprofessionals, instructional tutors, foster grandparents and volunteers to support learners at each grade level. In addition, we are providing support and interventions for our second language students and newcomer students who cannot speak English. We are looking for volunteers to help teach English to parents and students during the school day as well as in after school programs. Adult Ed is always suggested to parents as a wonderful program to access. We are always seeking new ways, additional resources and instructional support to help our students reach their potential. Fatima is seeking out various contacts in the community soliciting more volunteers to assist our newcomer students.

### **Summer Reading Challenge**

This is the second year we won the Summer Reading Challenge. Small school advantage. Students will be treated to a Field Day and lunch sponsored by the Lowell Police Superior Officers Association. We are so grateful for their generosity supporting our literacy efforts!

### **Family Events**

- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Music Show
- Spooky Story Night
- We received a gift from an anonymous donor-drum set- we have a band instructor if your student would like to be a part of Monday Night Band please have your student 5<sup>th</sup> graders give it a try.
- We have a cross country team-Mrs. Keefe is the coach. Ms. Netishen and Donovan have been helping- thank you. 4-5 more weeks of practice. Meets get very crowded at Shed Park. Our kids did really well. Meets are every Thursday- they start at 4:30, done by 5:00.

## **Upcoming events**

- Cultural Night-Cultural quilt will be coming home for families to work on to be on display for multi-cultural night.
- Pajama Day
- Book fair night
- Spaghetti supper was a big hit.

## **Open Forum**

Suggestions to raise revenue for materials and supplies:

- Maybe work on a Go Fund Me account to get supplies for school.
- Continue to write grants for Donors Choose.
- Solicit more community partnerships.
- Research grant opportunities and funding sources.

Maybe we should do something to help the community.

- MSPCA could use assistance due to the recent gas explosions in Greater Lawrence.
- Shelter in Lowell is having a hard time as well, they needed towels, soap, etc., and the community raised towels for them.
- Maybe we can put together a mitten tree.

We are very fortunate for the many companies/organizations/community members that like to give to us.

- Northeast Realtors Association, Merrimack Food Bank, Rogers Hall, Hewlett Packard, Lowell Police Superior Officers Association, It's All About the Kids, Middlesex Dental Program, Nordstrom's,

## **Community Outreach and Communication**

- We have two Facebook pages, Moody School PTO, Moody School.
- All teachers utilize Class DoJo and it's been a wonderful communication tool in addition to Connect Ed.

## **Next Meeting**

- Come up with a list of agencies that we can support.
- Continue to build communication opportunities through Class Dojo e-mails.