

Mount Prospect School
General PTO Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2017

Culture and Climate Summary – Survey Review

A Partnership of United Way of Northern New Jersey and the College of Saint Elizabeth

Presented by Ms. Cuccaro & Mrs. Immerman

- Presented to faculty at last faculty meeting, and now to parents

“School Culture & Climate Initiative” provides schools with the means to improve

- Climate – what happens every day
- Culture – values & beliefs
- Health – wellness of students
- Goal is to get families and entire community involved

Why Important?

- Looking for an increase in social and emotional skills
- Studies are showing anxiety in students
- Parent Question: is increase apparent at MPS? Yes, to an extent
- Peer interaction skills are needed here too

Benefits:

- A shared definition of climate & culture
- Modeled by staff
- Shared with Parents to model at home
- Delivers the message that culture & climate at school matters

Survey:

- Response
 - Students – 98.7%
 - Staff – 85%
 - Parents – 78%
- Survey Areas
 - Student Respect – perceive how students act in school and with peers
 - Friendship/Belonging – welcoming, inclusive, friendly
 - Student Shaping Environment – student voice, involvement in improving school environment
 - Support for Staff – how caring and supportive

- School Connectedness – how close students feel to people in school
- Student Approval – how well students feel about school
- Utility of Learning – student usefulness of what they learn
- Teacher Approval – students perceive how staff like school
- Student Pride – how proud students are of school

**Note how results are almost equal for each category among staff, student and parent survey participants

** Overall positive results, but still there is work to be done

Parent Question:

- “Student Respect” – staff is one point lower than parents – why?
 - Staff are not seeing this in all students across the board, they only witness their students and it is just their perceptions
- Why no parent result for “school connectedness?”
 - Parents are not part of the school, so it wasn’t on their survey
- Bullying: if there is a bullying situation, what are the consequences?
 - Situational – unpack what happened, talk to everyone
 - Conversation, Counseling and Communication home

Process

- Now stage 3 – Understanding and Action planning
- Next – implementation of new opportunities resulting from survey results
- *No particular time frame, there is no reason to rush
- Student voice is already started

What is in our control to improve?

- Bring concerns:
 - Directly to Ms. Hozeny or Mr. Pepitone
 - Contact PAC
 - Contact PTO
- No real negatives, only some low positives

Small group breakout of attendees – discuss things the school does well, what you like about MPS and also areas for opportunity