

# Choose Kind Committee

April 17, 2019 4:00 - 5:00 Board Room

## 2018-2019 Superintendent Goals

1. **Build healthy relationships with all students, parents, and staff. Trust is the key ingredient in any successful organization. Trust will be valued and fostered within both the district and community.**
2. **Emphasize school safety. Create the safest learning environments in the state of MN. This includes a focus on both building security and social-emotional health.**
3. **Foster a culture of engagement, where students, parents, and staff love coming to school because they feel heard, valued, and inspired.**

## **Committee Purpose and Plan -**

- a. We are coming together because we are ONE team. This committee will use a positive approach to making our district even better.
- b. **Listen** to parents on how they are feeling our district is doing. Are there areas of improvement needed?
- c. Each meeting, we will highlight one school and an initiative they've committed to along with example(s) of our implementation of a Policy to show what is currently going on in the schools.
- d. As the year goes on, we will reflect and develop any next steps (action plan) after we have went through the list of activities at each building level and all district policies regarding behaviors.

**Members (present in bold):** Sue Hedtke (1 at PWE, 1 at MMS), Luke Feierabend (HS Tech, 2 in MS, 1 in LME), Sarah Wiler (2 in HS), **Hilary Disch** (PWE and MMS), Jason Vaith (2 in PWE), **Justin Dittrich Bigley** (2 in LME), Eric Olson (Superintendent), **Matt Coalwell** (MS AP), **Mike Carr** (HS Principal), **Clay Norman** (PWE AP), **Clay Sawatzke** (District Communications), **John Weekley** (Dist. Sped), **Gabe Hackett** (LME Principal), **Matt Kounkel** (Hoglund Bus Co)

## **Agenda:**

1. **Parent Perspective =** Any hot button topics, comments, questions, or concerns?  
**Clay S. mentioned he is continuing to monitor social media as it pertains to school and is encouraged. We once again noted the importance of parents communicating directly with school when there are questions or concerns rather than posting on social media.**
2. **All are Welcome Signs - [Link](#)**  
**The committee saw one example of an "All are Welcome" sign and will take full credit for**



**the idea:)**

### 3. Monticello High School Programming - [Slides](#)

High School Principal, Mr. Carr presented the above slideshow and discussed programming at MHS. Imbedded in the slides (slide 4) is a video describing a collaborative union with Youth Frontiers and programming that started at MHS and has been built into MMS (7th grade) and LME/PWE (4th grades). Conceptually it looks to build student leaders, foster student courage, connect upper class students with younger students, and build unity within each respective building.

### 4. Committee Planning: Next Steps - the committee spent the remaining time discussing the direction of the committee and any next steps.

- a. Consistent feedback has pushed for educating and involving more parents - since last meeting a number committee members (staff and parents) have communicated the importance of reaching out to a wider base of parents and educating them on much of what each building is doing. Topics include promoting kindness, social media, bullying vs conflict, bus behavior, and did I say social media?
  - i. How to spread the word and educate: We discussed and debated what the best means is to reach more. We know we can't bring in hundreds of parents to our meeting and adding more meetings/presentations/commitments isn't something people (who are very busy already) attend well. Justin had a great idea that we look for opportunities throughout the year (in each building when we already have captive audiences) to share our topics. We could do this through short videos, flyers, or any other means of spreading the word about the topics we prioritize. We need to capitalize on opportunities when parents are already at events or in our buildings.
- b. Moving Forward:
  - i. We will look to add a few more parents next year. Please be on the look out for anyone else that you feel would be a good addition. We will also look to schedule one meeting this summer (maybe in August) as we approach the start of the school year for planning purposes.
  - ii. Please contact Mr. Coalwell with any other thoughts or ideas AND to verify your willingness to continue next year on the committee.
  - iii. Lastly, we decided unanimously that we do not need a meeting in May and we will plan on getting back together in August.