

## **LBC Parent/Community Meeting**

### **12/18/19**

Important to work together.

Intend on having monthly meetings.

Solution focused, rather than blame.

Middle schoolers complex - big life changes and transitions.

Looking for honest conversations.

#### Lines of Communication

- Parents and Advisors need to build a relationship and have consistent communication.
- Teachers, School Counselors, Principal/Associate Principal, District Administrator, School Board.
- Newsletters, School Counselor Contact Form, Handbook, Website.

#### Parent Comments

- Paper copies in addition to online access, especially for important information. Electronic forms can be difficult to look at. Parents can request paper copies to be sent home.
- Why are there dogs in school? Bart at LBC and Jackson at TRHS. Dogs are present for calming students. Dogs are trained and have all requirements and papers on file. Research, policy and use of the dogs will be shared with LBC and TRHS families
  - Are dogs trained?
  - What if kids are allergic?
  - What if kids are afraid of dogs?
  - What if the dog bites someone? Who is responsible? Who insures the dog?
  - Parents would like more information regarding the purpose and role of therapy dogs in school.
  - Kids shouldn't be worried about the dog, they should be worried about getting to class.

“Therapy Animal”: is most commonly a dog (but can be other species) that has been obedience trained and screened for its ability to interact favorably with humans and other animals. The primary purpose of a therapy animal is to provide affection and comfort to students in schools and students with learning difficulties.

- Bullying - Kids that are bullying. What is the ramification/consequence for bullying?
  - Investigation of incident.
  - School leaders address every situation brought to their attention is addressed personally by the associate principal or principal.
  - Staff conferences with students to resolve situations.
  - Every situation is unique and dealt with on a case by case basis.
  - Kids come to school to do the best they can do.
  - Communication on the best way to work with kids to resolve issues is key. If there are certain strategies to use for your child, please let us know.

- Kids are afraid to report because they think it will get worse.
- Parents are hearing that teachers are on their phones outside.
- A parent feels that the victims of bullying are blamed and the bullies are not facing any consequences.
  - Process of handling a situation.
- What is currently being done to address bullying?
  - Advisor/Advisee
- There are good things going on at LBC
  - School staff and parents have hard jobs and we need to work together to help one another.
- Problem Solving - child searched for a vape, parents were not contacted.
- 4th to 5th grade transition - how can we provide them with more stability? Can students have the same advisor thru 8th grade? This discussion will be continued by school staff.
- Would a motivational speaker help?
- How can kids reach out if they feel they are a victim of bullying?
  - There is a system for kids to use to contact counselors.
- What happens when bullying continues?
  - Conference with parents, then bring students in.
  - Conference with students to resolve situations.
  - There is a mediation process for kids, both kids have to be willing to participate. If not, they go a different route.
- Focus on Restorative Practices
  - Why don't we do things the way we did when parents were in high school, like demerits, suspension, detention, etc.
  - Why are kids who are expelled allowed back in school?
  - Consequences still exist, but there are other strategies and practices that work better than we use first.

#### Student Comment

- When teachers leave the classroom to deal with issues, things can happen. Friends stick up for friends and lie. Cameras and more adults in the classroom and during unstructured times.
- Kids get detentions but still misbehave.

**Next Meeting: January 20, 2020**