

## Family Engagement Meeting

March 24, 2026

Members Present: Emily McDuffie, Brianna Zittlosen, Felton White, Mary Woodworth, Jessica Harris, Robin Bizub, Luke Nasheed

1. Ms. McDuffie welcomed everyone.
2. Family Engagement Focus Group: Data Review from March 9 Focus Group
  - a. Communication preferences
    - i. ClassDojo, email, paper
    - ii. Parent square has been difficult to use
      1. Discussion around Parent Square: there is a requirement from district to use Parent Square
      2. Parents expressed desire to have just one platform, and their preference is Class Dojo; however, due to district requirements, if we are going to pick just one it would have to be Parent Square.
      3. We would need to teach everyone involved how to use Parent Square for next year. Not user friendly.
      4. Maybe the 6<sup>th</sup> graders could create a school newspaper based on the school newsletter, also have some opportunities for writing articles and being creative.
    - iii. Flyers are appreciated as well
  - b. Parent/Family Engagement
    - i. The volunteer process is cumbersome and why aren't parents already approved?
      1. At Open House or Meet the Teacher have a support person to walk adults through the process so they are ready for the year
        - a. Answering questions
      2. Make the language clearer for volunteers exactly what is expected and how to walk through the application
    - ii. Child care can be a barrier for getting involved
      1. Especially for the families with students with special needs
    - iii. Give options for Zoom for Open House or Meet the Teacher
  - c. Chronic Absenteeism

- i. Discussion around mental health barriers. Per Ms. Harris, Steele will have a RBT next year
- ii. Steele had an influx of students with higher needs, which stretched our available resources
- iii. High needs can also be a barrier to attendance
- iv. Can we start having more activities after school? Sports, family nights, more community support for parents/families
  - 1. The challenge is finding personnel to create and facilitate
- v. Creating kindness groups or peers support
- vi. Assessments
  - 1. Work with the staff to shift language to being more of a “check-in” rather than using the word “test”
- vii. Help to create a village for the parents

3. Family Engagement Team Plan: SY2026-2027

- a. As much was shared during the focus group discussion, no additional thoughts were shared during this agenda item

4. Family Feedback & Input

- a. None at this time.

5. Closing for the Year

- a. Ms. McDuffie thanked everyone for serving on the Family Engagement Team