

Coffee with the Executive Director (English)

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2020

28 participants

Mercedes extends gratitude to our nurse, Kim Welsh in the School Nurse Appreciation for all the care she pours into our students.

A parent congratulates the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week. Mercedes opens the space for questions, comments or anything they would like to share with us.

Mercedes announces that parents will receive a letter sometime today about conversations with teachers and meeting the needs of our students now that the closure will be extended to the end of the school year. In a way to extend levels of support, teachers will be increasing their presence through instruction in zoom. The letter will come from Mercedes. Then, they will receive a communication from their teacher with the details of how those changes will look like. These changes will be effective Monday. Please feel free to share your questions and concerns.

Kim shares that she will be participating in a meeting

Mercedes shares that we are planning for end of school

Mercedes asks the PTO and Booster Club to pass and post the

A parent has a question, since this is a new school year for me, I will like to know how the transition will look like next year? Her transition from Kindergarten to First Grade.

Mercedes answers that Danielle and Wilma are working with our Responsive Classroom and how the end of school year will look like. Wilma shares.

Hopefully, Dr.Maria Alonso will be able to join us next week and have more insight into the individual needs of the students.

Mayara follows up with a parent regarding Scholastic books. She shares that she got in touch with Ms. Wolf. The Admin team will meet and decide how the process will be. As soon as we have more answers, we will share them with you.

Mercedes shares that we are trying to do one collective effort for picking up books. There will be staggered times for parents to pick up, but first we have to do staggered times for teachers and then we will do the pick. We are trying to close out with teachers first and have them help us with organizing and then we will organize for parents to pick up in June.

Parent question: Since this is her first year at school and right now we are doing our best for her to learn Spanish and doing Math. Will there be some sort of evaluation? Should I prepare for some kind of test?

Mercedes shares that there is no such thing that is happening in the state that she is aware of and she has regular conversations with the DOE and the Charter network of this happening. As we always do in the beginning of the year, we will do a pre assessment. In the beginning of the year we will still do MAP, our universal screener, in September so we can meet our students where they are. The most important thing is for you to remain steady. It is one of the reasons for her to be doing the online platform. In addition to the online instruction that will begin starting on Monday, they will be providing the link in Dojo in the event that you cannot participate, you can always take a look at what the teacher taught that day. Remain steady, do what you are doing. Create a balance for your child between that which is academic and that which is social and emotional because we are all of that. The best advice I can give you is be steady. We will take care of your little ones as soon as they get back.

Parent shares that you mentioned on Monday that they are starting class.

Mercedes shares that yes, be on the look-out for a letter from admin today on an effort we have been working with our teachers since Carney announced,

Parent confirms and asks about a letter

Mercedes says yes today she will be sending a letter today about daily office hours as well as instructional videos.

Mayara confirms that it will be Monday through Friday for ELA, SLA, Math...everything.

Mercedes shares that at every step of Gov. Carney's updates we have tried to increase our support. Now that we know our students will not be returning May 15 we need to ramp it up and provide the instructional support.

Parent shares that the company she works for, she received a notification that they are extending their stay at home until September. If she is not mistaken, school begins in September. If this continues, and you guys have been very transparent as far as returns. But, if we do not return, will there be a plan worked on for that, just in case they do not start.

Mercedes shares that today, a group that is being run by the Executive Director of the DCN, a group has gotten together, and they are being guided by the McKinsey report. Obviously, the plan and the hope is that we go back full force, we have a vaccine, and everybody can come back and we begin school in the normal way. In the event that it is not met, they are coming up with procedures that will be used using the McKinsey Report. And what that report is, it is best practices for what it will look like in the event that we are still six feet apart, in the event that we have multiple bus routes, in the event that we have to divide the number of bodies in the building All of that is being worked on and designed.

Parent shares that it is good to know that it is being considered so they can prepare themselves for the next steps.

Mercedes says yes, we are on it and we are planning from nuts to bolts in the event that we have to do something that isn't is our regular opening.

Mercedes asks what else.

Mayara shares the reminder for May PD has changed based on the digital calendar.

Danielle shares that the Culture Team has been working to provide social emotional support in the form of videos and a newsletter. The Culture Team will be sharing a video and a newsletter via dojo and on the platform on a bi weekly basis and each week during June because it is a short month.

View video.

Mayara shares that now that you know who the Team is and who Ms. Meri is, she will be on Zoom today for the different grade levels if you would like to connect,

Parent question. Will we be getting information at the end of the year about how our child is progressing? I can see how he is progressing in Dreambox, but I can't see for the other programs. Is there any way we will be getting

reports cards because we usually get that information at the report card conference.

Shirley shares that we are working on this. As far as sending the reports, they are fairly easy to produce the reports for Imagine Learning and Imagine Espanol, but we would have to look at privacy as far as being able to share that info via Dojo.

Mercedes shares that it seems that middle schools and high schools are doing end of year reports. But, it seems like elementary schools are not because it weighs differently. I give this to you, because I do not think this will change the way in which you connect and continue working. This is so that you as their first teacher are aware. With our parents, I see this as a way to motivate you as their first teachers, to further commit you to make sure your students are connecting and doing their best and living those UNIDOS values even when no one is looking. Even though we are all looking! Please continue to do what you are doing.

Parent shares that she doesn't need a full report card, but when she looks at the summary for Dreambox, it gives her a sense of how he is doing. But, he loves Math. So for the ones that he has more work to do in, like ELA, I'd like to know how he is doing as a parent and as an educator so he can feel like he is making progress and gains. Because that is my son's thing. If he doesn't feel like he is making gains, and he is only in Kindergarten, so pray for me.

Mercedes shares that you are challenging me. You guys push us to do better and that's what we want. I appreciate that comment and that request. I promise you that will not be the last time this is talked about. Like you said, it is not possible to do a formal report card but...

Parent shares that they are not doing that in PS either. But, even if it is not formalized, like I said for him, I'd like for him to be able to gauge what he is working towards. He sees me as his parents not as his teacher so...

Mercedes yes, you do not even know what you are doing...you have to say that as Mom...

Shirley shares, I get it. You can request that of the teacher. They also have certificates. You can custom make them. That is how we do it during the regular school year. That is how we do it as an interim report.

Mercedes shares we will be looking into it.

Shirley confirms that yes it cannot be a formal report card.

Parent asks that she knows that you can read books on the platforms that the teachers have like Wonders and Maravillas. Is there a way to access books because her daughter is in inhaled of all reading materials. She has been loving the ability to practice the Spanish books. It will take her over an hour, but she is really practicing to make sure she is saying it correctly. Is there a way to get more books for her?

Shirley says yes. You can request that teacher give her more books. The teacher can assign more than one book to your child. But, I don't want you to overwhelm her because Spanish is hard. But, when we provide students in a second language with a different story all the time, it is not as effective as reading more than one book in a week. But, we can personalize if she would like more than one book.

Parent asks for Imagine Learning, I know she will not finish over the summer. But, for Dreambox, is there a time that it clocks over to the next grade. You know how it has the 4 sections, I know she had completed 2 of the sections and she is almost finished the 3rd one, but will there be more. I know that this is part of her routine, but is there more for the summer.

Shirley shares that it is just like Imagine Learning in that there is a pathway. It will continue based on the child's level. It is just like Dreambox in that it will continue but I am not exactly sure of the date it will click over.

Shirley confirms that we can share privately with each parent via Dojo as far as student reports. I know if it was me, I would want to make sure, whether it is low or high, I don't want to share. So part of what we can do now that we are a month in is begin to share feedback.

Mercedes thanks Shirley, what else.

Mayara shares Happy Mother's Day to all of those we have in our school community. You guys are amazing. Thank you for all you do for your families especially as a first time parent.

Mercedes shares thank you for that reminder. Thank you. Happy mother's day, happy nurses appreciation, happy happy. Hopefully you were able to celebrate in some way. Have a good rest of your week. Thank you all.

Meeting Closes at 12:47 p.m.