

**Franklin School Committee
Minutes
June 14, 2016
Municipal Building – Council Chambers**

Meetings are recorded by Franklin TV and shown on Comcast Channel 11 and
Verizon Channel 29

This meeting's audio was recorded by Steve Sherlock for Franklin Matters

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Dr. O'Malley

Dr. O'Malley read the District's Vision Statement.

Pledge of Allegiance: Sam Jette, Fifth Grader from Jefferson Elementary School

Attendance: Mrs. Bilello, Mrs. Scofield, Dr. Bergen, Mrs. Douglas, Dr. O'Malley, Mrs. Schultz, Dr. Jewell were present. Also present were Dr. Maureen Sabolinski, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Sally Winslow, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Miriam Goodman, School Business Administrator; Joyce Edwards, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning; Mr. Eric Stark, Principal, Helen Keller Elementary; Ms. Amy Souls, Assistant Principal, Keller Elementary School, Ms. Kate Peretz, Principal, Oak Street Elementary School; Kathleen Gerber, Assistant Principal, Oak Street Elementary School

Moment of Silence:

A moment of silence was observed.

1. Routine Business

- **Citizen's Comments:** Denise Schultz acknowledged that her son, Connor Schultz, is in the audience tonight to finish up a requirement for his Eagle Badge, the 'Citizens in the Community Badge'. One of the requirements is to attend a public meeting and report on it. Ms. Schultz advised that Connor is very close to his Eagle rank and she is a proud Mom.
- Dr. O'Malley congratulated Ms. Bilello on her new position as Principal of the Hopkins School in Hopkinton.

moving forward. Ms. Gerber advised that she was sitting with Kindergarten and First Grade teachers and the question was how do we work together to have kids live these values all the time and how can we take 5th graders and pair them with kindergartners and first graders to talk about our core values. Ms. Gerber explained that they had an assembly in September with a year in review for the kids so that it would all be fresh for them again. Ms. Gerber explained that the year began with the 'Kid President' who is an inspirational young man who talks to children about the importance of learning. They connected his speech about going back to school, about teachers being awesome and students being awesome and the importance of learning to begin the school year. Ms. Gerber further explained that she then met with the kindergarten and first grade teachers again and each grade level chose an acorn that they would represent. Each grade chose an acorn to represent, there was poetry, music, dance, arts & crafts that talked about science and curriculum. Each of the students each had a chance to talk about what it meant to be a member of the Oak Street community. Ms. Gerber advised that at the December assembly there was a farewell for Mrs. Minkle and the whole school community created an Oak Tree for Mrs. Minkle. Ms. Gerber then advised that a new committee of teachers joined her to keep the acorns alive. There was the literacy specialist, Tracie O'Brien, Nick Goldman, P.E. Teacher, Allison Fuller, Music Teacher, Deb Cass, Delores Sherlock and Kelly Sherman all joined her to plan the next steps on how to keep the acorns alive. The twists and turns led to 'Why is respect so important?' Ms. Gerber explained that they decided to keep the kids in mind and catch them showing these behaviors of respect especially at arrival and dismissal, moving through the hallways, etc. and they were filmed. We called it 'caught being good'. We then went into classrooms to talk about what it looked like to show respect. Mr. Gerber also explained that they presented the students with a challenge for the remainder of the school year to earn 100 more acorns to the end of the year. A video was shown with teachers encouraging the students to earn more acorns. Kudos to Nick Goldman who put the video together. (see powerpoint).

Ms. Peretz advised the committee of the next steps at Oak Street School. She advised that when she first arrived at Oak Street, she spent some time one on one with the faculty, had some meet and greets with the community, sent out surveys, spent time in classrooms. Ms. Peretz advised that what she discovered was that when asked what was special about, Oak Street the answer was the people. She explains that the idea with the acorns really shows the actionable way that it is done with the children every day. The acorns show how the children interact each day. The next step was how to have the adults work together in the Oak Street Community. During this time of transition and having someone new as a

Principal, Ms. Peretz thought it made sense to spend time during faculty meetings and ask the question, how can the faculty and staff begin to use the core values of acorns as adults working together. Our focus goal is Student Achievement. The idea is to foster critical thinking, strive for academic excellence and to promote lifelong learning. Ms. Peretz advised that during the faculty meetings, there were several things that were discussed, they started off with Hopes and Dreams which is part of responsive classroom. The teachers are looking to developing developmentally appropriate curriculum. Other ideas came from these discussions. One idea was a Compass Points activity where the adults can work together, have discussions, make decisions, with each other in the building. Ms. Peretz advised that Decision Making is something she believes in as a joint model within a building. She advised that using these ideas, the group has come together to think about models for next year in student placement, co-teaching, responsive classroom, social thinking, and master schedule. These are things that are done now so that we can have these plans in place for next year. Bringing in the last piece of communicating with the adult members of the community, i.e. family, parents, school council, how can we inform everyone. One example is in the fall, on our curriculum night, we are going to have something like EdCamp night. Ms. Peretz explained that EdCamp is something that is being explored as faculty members that there is some choice and some control of the topics you explore.

Ms. Denise Schultz thanked Ms. Peretz and Ms. Gerber for all the work they have been doing. Ms. Schultz explained that her daughter is finishing up at Oak Street. She feels biased but has felt that her children have come out of the school beautifully and feels that it is because of the leadership in the school.

c. Keller Update - Mr. Eric Stark, Principal, Amy Souls, Assistant Principal, Nichole Cahill, 2nd grade teacher and Linda Cournoyer, Speech Language Pathologist

Mr. Stark advised the Committee that he started his own personal journey two years ago at the Keller School when he assumed the role of Principal where he explored and learned all that he could about the Keller community. He advised that one of the first things he did was he visited each of the classrooms, he let the children trace him on butcher paper. Before he left the classrooms he charged the children with designing him as the new Keller Principal. The task was to let him know where he should walk in Franklin, the people he should meet and shake their hand, the words that he should listen for about the Keller community and the Town of Franklin. Mr. Stark advises that his mind and heart were full of all the wonderful aspects of the Keller community. Mr. Stark advises that although this

work was done two years ago, the two pictures in the powerpoint still hang in his office as a powerful reminder of what it means to be a part of the Keller community.

Mr. Stark further explains that he and Ms. Peretz took their own personal journeys at the Keller School. Their goal was to listen to students and parents and listen to their perspectives around what it means to be a part of the Keller community.

Mr. Stark advised that in late winter, Ms. Amy Souls joined the Keller School. He advised that in Ms. Soul's short time at Keller, she has become knowledgeable about the Town and the school's improvement efforts.

Ms. Souls advised the Committee that the District Improvement Plan has a goal of Teaching all Students by implementing a research-based curricula to support social/emotional learning.

Ms. Souls advised that the Keller School Improvement Plan aligns with the District Improvement Plan. Ms. Souls advised that on this slide (see powerpoint), on the left is the Standard and on the right are the steps that are achieved to reach this goal.

Ms. Souls advised that the first action step is to expand and strengthen their commitment to Morning meetings, the second action step is for the Principal and Assistant Principal to facilitate Morning meetings at each grade level on a monthly basis. This work has allowed for additional collaboration time for grade level teams and for us as administrators to support the ongoing implementation of responsive classroom and morning meetings.

Mr. Stark introduced Ms. Nichole Cahill and Ms. Linda Cournoyer as well as some Keller kids, Nigel Phillips, Will Carosi, Ryan Sullivan, Isabella Cross and Maddie Tuxbury.

Ms. Cahill advised the Committee that Responsive Classroom is a big part of her classroom. Each day begins with a Morning meeting. Ms. Cahill explained what a morning meeting is, it has 4 parts that consist of modeling and practicing social emotional and academic skills by creating a positive powerful community that fulfills student's needs to belong and have fun. Each morning begins with a morning message. There are many tasks that the students need to complete in the morning and one of them is to read the morning message. Ms. Cahill advised that the students will demonstrate the routine of getting into a morning meeting.

The students would like to share our expectations of our greeting each morning. This is a very important part of the morning meeting.

The students read to the committee the important expectations of the greeting at morning meeting. (see powerpoint).

The student got into a circle and demonstrated to the committee their 'high five greeting'.

Ms. Cahill advised that after the greeting, sometimes there is a sharing piece.

Ms. Cahill advised that the last part of the morning meeting is an activity.

The students shared their favorite morning meeting activity.

Ms. Cournoyer advised the Committee that she worked together with the Occupational Therapist this year to develop a curriculum that would help address goals in the areas of social thinking concepts and zones of regulation. Ms. Cournoyer explained that the morning meetings were a great opportunity for the Speech Language Pathologist and Occupational Therapist to come into the classroom to teach the social emotional concepts and zones of regulation to the entire class. Their goal was for teachers to hear the language that is being used in the small groups and they are now hearing it in the classroom so it was successful.

Ms. Souls advised that to measure the impact of the responsive classroom and morning meetings have had on Keller kids, the students in grades 3-5 were surveyed. Ms. Souls advised the Committee of the questions the students were asked in the survey and the results. (see powerpoint)

Mr. Stark advised the Committee that they celebrate the fact that 87% of the students in grades 3-5 feel that they are always or often active participants in their classroom and grade level communities. Approximately 81% feel a sense of belonging in their communities too. Our goal is to have 100% of Keller kids to be active participants in their communities and a sense of belonging.

Mr. Stark showed a video of students voicing their feelings of how Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting helps them to become a stronger Keller Kid. (see powerpoint)

Mr. Stark advised the Committee of the results of the last question on the survey which was what words most meaningfully describe what it means to be a Keller Kid. The results show Caring (76%), Inclusive (58%), Intelligent (62%), Unique (54%). Mr. Stark advised that the words respectful and responsible were the minimum expectations of all students in Franklin and in all our Schools. We expect kids to come to school and act in a respectful and responsible way.

Ms. Souls advised that they also captured valuable feedback from the Teachers.

Ms. Cahill shared with the Committee the Teacher survey results on the question of how would you rate your overall implementation of Responsive Classroom and Morning meeting.

Ms. Cournoyer shared the comments from teachers with regard to an area they have identified for improvement with regard to responsive classroom and morning meeting.

Ms. Souls advised the Committee that from the survey results, they looked at what their next steps would be and what their year would look like next year. Ms. Souls shared these steps with the Committee. (see powerpoint)

Mr. Stark summarized that he and Ms. Souls are proud to be the administrators of the Keller community and are deeply committed to created a school community in which all students have strong feelings of belonging and see themselves as strong participants in our school community. Mr. Stark invited the Committee to follow the #KellerSchoolCommunity on Twitter to see all the great things that are in store for our kids.

Dr. O'Malley commented that if he were a cranky old man who heard this presentation, he would say, that's not about math, where's the science. Why is this important when this is a venue for math, science, etc.?

Mr. Stark advised that at the heart of the presentation tonight was in person, having the children speak about their sense of belonging, their sense of participation in their school community. He advised that in this day and age, if students do not feel safe coming to school, and do not feel that this is a place that is the best possible place for them to learn and grow, then they will not be able to learn and grow. Mr. Stark advised that he tells the kids that one of the reason's why he became a Principal was because school was not always easy for him and he as well as Mrs. Souls are committed to making sure that every child who walks

in the door is in the absolute best place for them and that they belong there. Mr. Stark advises that when all of those things are in place, when the students feel safe, then the academics follow.

Dr. O'Malley agrees with Mr. Stark that students do need to feel safe and belong before they can do math or any other academic subject.

Dr. O'Malley asked that maybe next year there could be some feedback on what the parents think of all of this. Have they gotten the message or are they still questioning?

Ms. Bilello commented that she thought that Denise (Schultz) did such a nice job of applauding Oak Street, and having seen many administrators come through Keller School, having two children going through the school, she applauds Mr. Stark and Ms. Souls for taking the steps as administrators to get into the classrooms. Ms. Bilello advised that she has a daughter there right now and she really appreciates seeing the Principal and Assistant Principal in the classroom. It can be scary for children to go sit with the Principal or Assistant Principal and building that relationship with the students goes so far and she applauds them for making the effort and part of their goal. She notes that she has seen the Keller community grow with the result of responsible classroom, great work!

Dr. O'Malley inquired as to how many of our schools are doing this?

Dr. Sabolinski advised that all Elementary schools are doing it.

Dr. O'Malley gave a kudos to the responsive classroom.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that responsive classroom is moving to Middle School next year.

Dr. Bergen commended both Oak Street and Keller Schools for the balance of academic and character piece. Dr. Bergen inquired as to whether you seeing the results in the places that are not structured, cafeteria, out on the playground, are you seeing eye contact, are you seeing kids greeting each other, are you seeing this applied outside of the classroom?

Ms. Cahill advised that yes, they are seeing the results. The students feel much more comfortable. Ms. Cahill also noted that having Ms. Cournoyer coming into the classroom has helped so that she is able to carry it through the day.

Dr. Sabolinski added that part of the social/emotional learning initiative some of our counselors will be working with the “Y” staff and training them in the curriculum. This will extend this into the community. Dr. Sabolinski also suggested to Mr. Jette that maybe we could extend this into the Recreation program as students are involved in these programs all summer. This helps the skills to be reinforced during the summer.

Discussion Only Items -

a. Policy - First Readings

- **Policy -IL - Evaluation of Instructional Programs - First Reading -**
Ms. Winslow advised that the Policy SubCommittee met last week to review another Instructional Policy, IL. The Committee has in their packets the current and proposed language changes. The Policy was quite outdated in terms of language. Ms. Winslow advised that the last sentence of paragraph 1 was eliminated and was replaced with new language that says ‘as part of the evaluation of the instructional program the Superintendent will assure that the district’.

In the 5 bullets, there were changes to the verbs to make sense with previous sentence. Also, In Bullet 5 in the second part of policy, part of evaluation process would include teacher and parent evaluation of student behavior, it was changed to reflect input from stakeholders as appropriate.

The last change to the last sentence to reflect what we actually do when we evaluate programs. The sentence reads ‘the Superintendent will insure that progress of program evaluation is periodically reported to the School Committee’.

- **Policy IHBA-R - Programs for Students with Disabilities - Second Reading - No discussion**
- **Policy IHBHA - Alternative School Programs - Second Reading - No discussion**
- **Policy IJOAB - Extended Field Trips - Second Reading - No discussion.**

- e. I recommend the request to declare yearbooks as surplus as detailed.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- f. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$619.45 from the Parmenter PCC for field trips.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- g. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$500.00 from the Jefferson PCC for Library books.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- h. I recommend acceptance of a check for \$2,900.00 from Oak Street PCC For Supplemental Curriculum Materials.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- i. I recommend moving Policy IL - Evaluation of Instructional Programs to a second reading.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0
- j. I recommend ratification of the proposed MOU for a contract between the FEA and the Franklin School Committee.
Motion: Ms. Douglas Second: Ms. Scofield
Approve: 7 Oppose: 0

5. Information Matters:

- **Superintendent's Report:**

Dr. Sabolinski advised that the district was notified that Matt Dao has been selected in the All National Honors Band, which is a very prestigious honor. Matt is a Trumpet Player. Matt will be participating in the All National Honors Festival in Texas from November 8-10th, 2016. Sophia Addy who graduated this year, went last year to Nashville. Dr. Sabolinski advised that Matt will be invited to a School Committee meeting next year. Congratulations to Matt.

Dr. O'Malley inquired as to how it is funded?

Dr. Sabolinski advised that the district will help to fund the trip. It is part of our music program to attend the competitions and for a student to be selected from several hundred students nationally, it is a very prestigious honor.

Dr. Sabolinski advised that she received a piece of correspondence from Gerry Shanahan, who is the Operations Director for the Salute Military Golf Association of Boston. This is an organization that makes golf accessible to disabled veterans. Heather Moreau, our TV Production Teacher and Gavin Mealey who just graduated from the High School worked with this organization and produced a promotional video. The organization wrote a letter indicating that they had privilege of working with Heather and her TV club at the high school and producing a promotional video for our wounded veterans golf program. They did a wonderful job with getting kids involved. If anyone would like to see the video, it can be found at www.smgaboston.org. It was a lovely letter and Heather and students do an amazing job with tv production.

School Committee - Sub-Committee Reports

- **Budget Sub-Committee** - None
- **Policy Sub Committee** -
- **Community Relations** - Ms. Schultz advised that there was one more coffee next Friday at the Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Schultz advised that at the July meeting there will be a report about findings. The coffees have been well attended. Ms. Schultz believes that the coffee hours will be continued going forward. There will be a more formal report in July.
- **Chapter 70 resolution** - None
- **Calendar Committee** -
- **School Committee Liaison Reports** - None

Ms. Douglas asked what about the surplus yearbooks, are they this years?

Dr. Sabolinski advised that they were yearbooks that had been stockpiled over the years and there were a lot of them. Dr. Sabolinski advised that they made sure there were copies in a variety of places.

6. New Business: None

7. Adjourn: Dr. O'Malley made a motion move to adjourn, second by Ms. Douglas.

8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Childers

SCAgenda 6-14-16.pdf
Budget2Actual.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1624 summary.pdf
Payroll Warrant #1624.pdf
FPS Summary & Sign Off.pdf
SCWarrant051916.pdf
SCWarrant052616.pdf
SCWarrant060216.pdf
May 24, 2016 SCMinutes-DRAFT
Keller SC Presentation June 14, 2016
Oak St School Committee.ppt
IHBA-R Program for Students with Disabilities.pdf
IHBA-R-Current.pdf
IHBHA - Alternative School Program Policy.pdf
IHBHA - Current.pdf
IJOAB - Extended Field Trips.pdf
IJOAB - Current.pdf
IL - Evaluation of Instructional Program.pdf
IL - Current.pdf
ActionA.pdf
ActionB.pdf
ActionC.pdf
ActionD.pdf
ActionE.pdf
ActionF.pdf
ActionG.pdf
ActionH.pdf
ActionI.pdf
ActionJ.pdf
EnrollmentCompare-May2015-May2016.pdf
PledgeStudent.pdf



Oak Street
Elementary
School

Core Values

Mighty Oaks from
Little Acorns Grow

Achievement

Creative

Original

Respect

Never give up

Safe

A Year In Review
Next Steps From Here



Oak Street
Elementary
School

September Assembly

#Awesome

Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

| | |
|---|-----|
|  Achievement | 88 |
|  Creative | 16 |
|  Original | 16 |
|  Respect | 205 |
|  Never give up | 61 |
|  Safe | 49 |

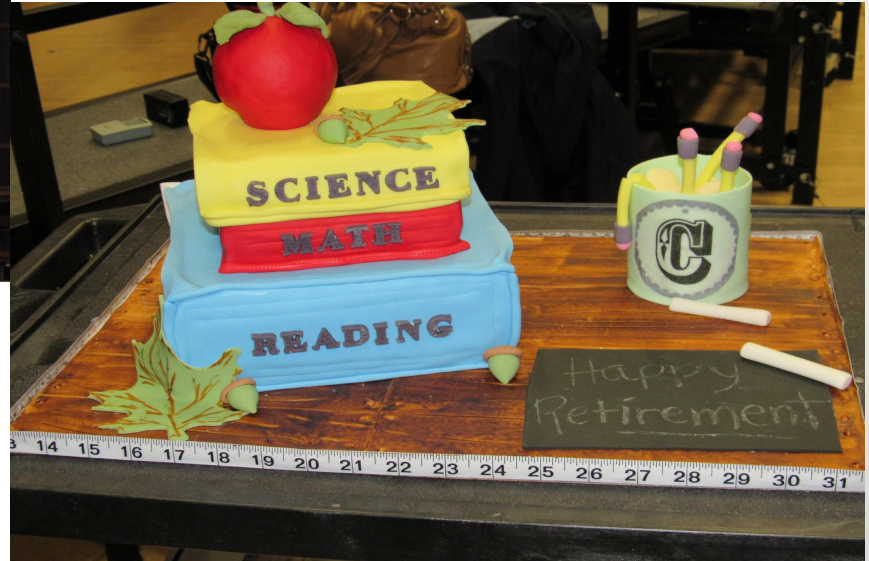
December Assembly





Oak Street
Elementary
School

A Final Farewell





Oak Street
Elementary
School

May Assembly

Why is respect so important?

Mighty Oaks from
Little Acorns Grow

Achievement

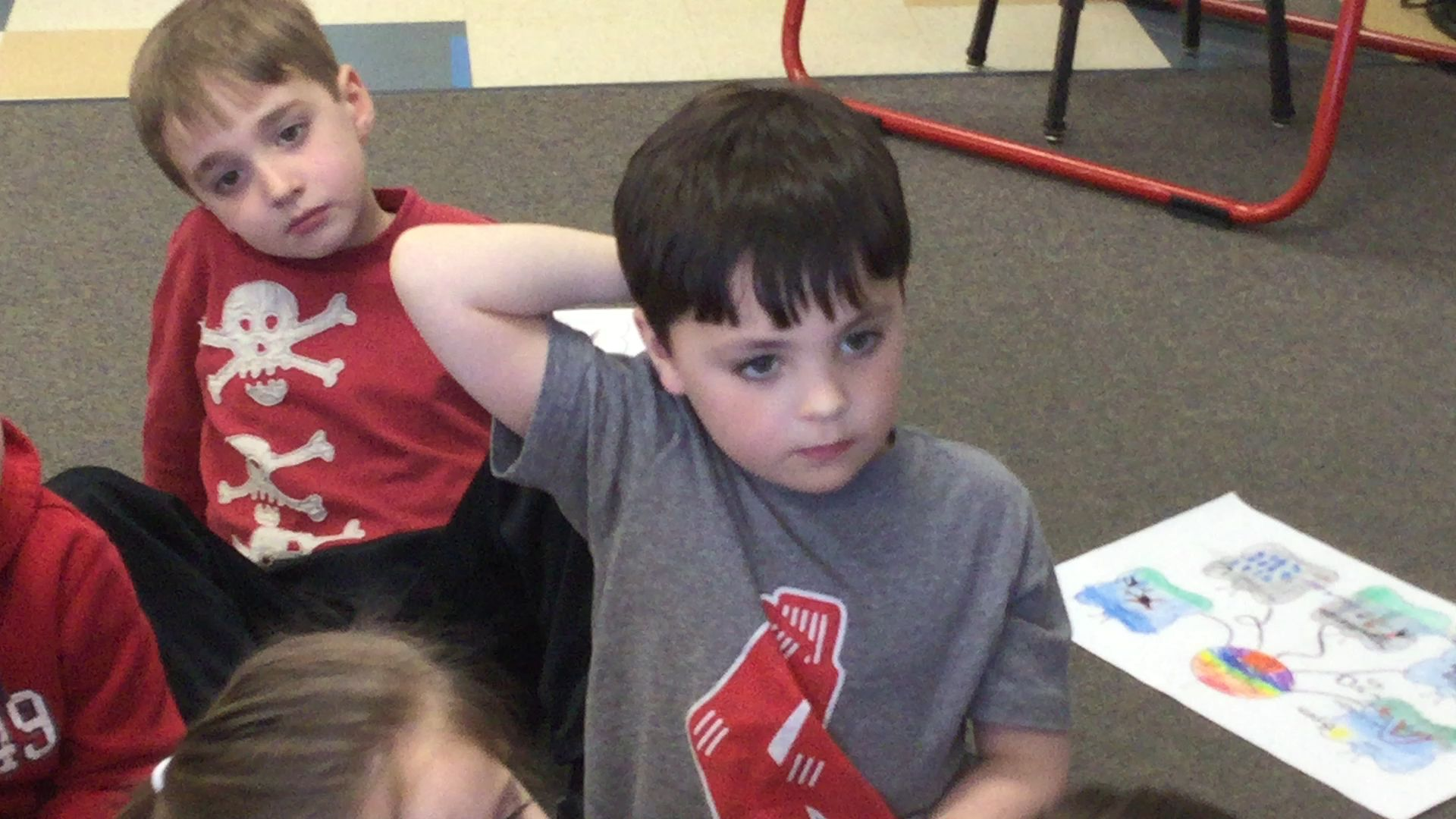
Creative

Original

Respect

Never give up

Safe





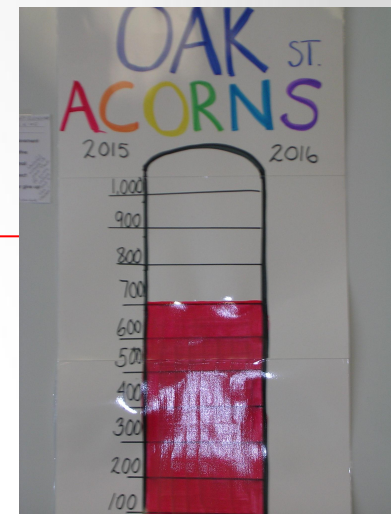
Oak Street
Elementary
School

Setting a Goal

We already beat last year's total, but we still have
1 month of school left.

The Last Month

The Goal:



Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow

Achievement

Greative

Original

Respect

Never give up

Safe





Oak Street
Elementary
School

Next Steps

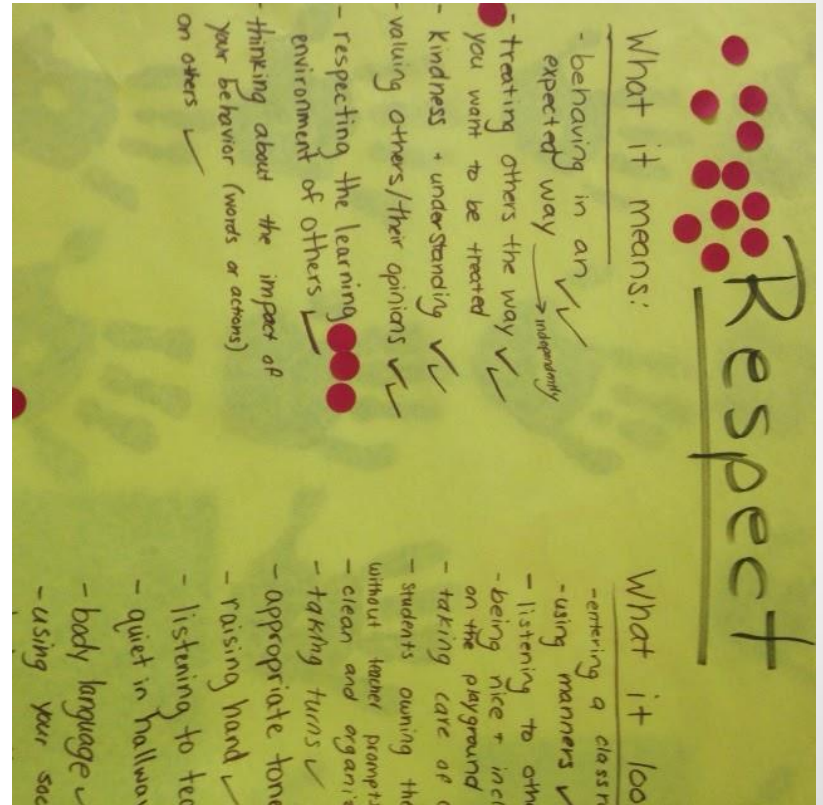
- How can we as a faculty and staff begin to use the core values of ACORNS as adults working together at Oak Street?
- Focus of Goal: Student Achievement
- To foster critical thinking. To strive for academic excellence. To promote life long learning.



Oak Street
Elementary
School

Faculty Meetings

- Hopes and Dreams
- Compass Points
- What does this work look like for students? For adults?

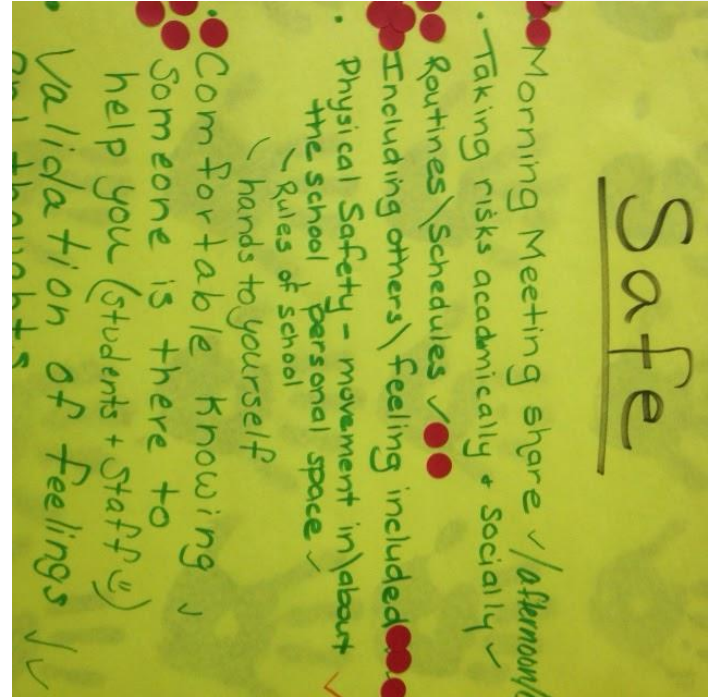




Oak Street
Elementary
School

Decision Making

- Student Placement
- Co-Teaching
- Responsive Classroom
- Social Thinking
- Master Schedule



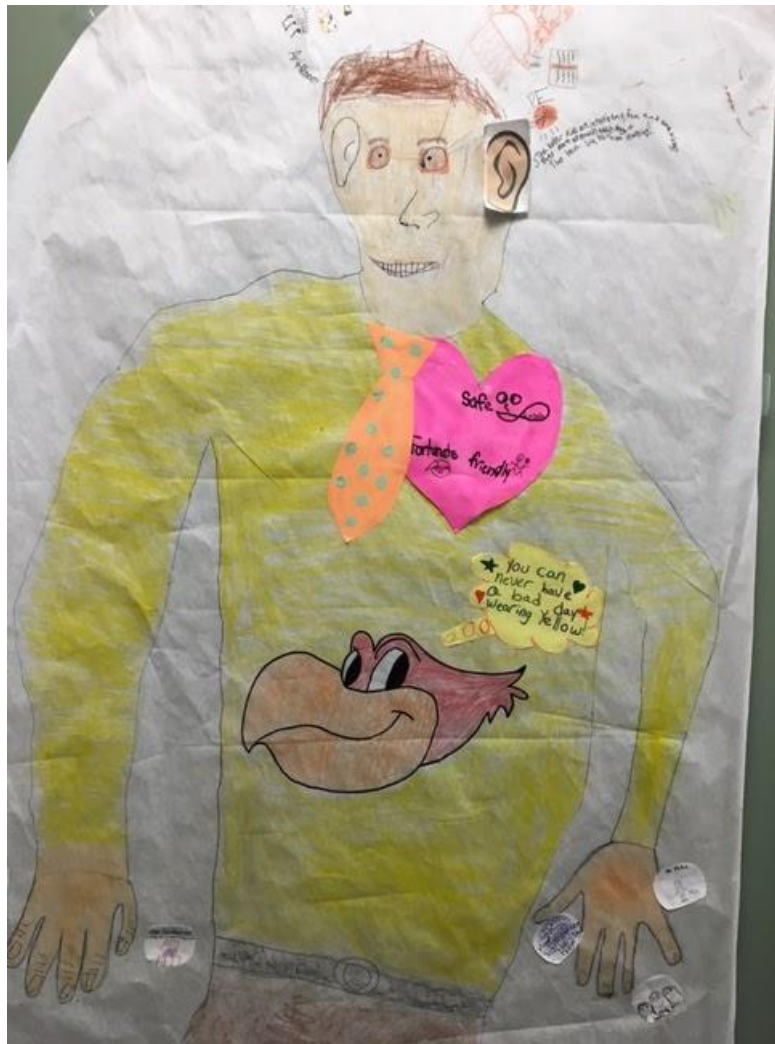


Oak Street
Elementary
School

Communication

- School Council
- Curriculum Night
- EdCamp for Parents/Guardians

#KellerJourney





Helen Keller School @KellerSchool · 2 Sep 2015

Welcome Back #KellerSchoolCommunity!
#KellerJourney.



**Franklin Public Schools
District Improvement Plan (DIP)
2015-2016**

Standard 2- Teaching All Students

- By implementing research-based curricula to support social/emotional learning all students will benefit from a safe and supportive learning environment

**Helen Keller Elementary School
School Improvement Plan (SIP)
2015-2016**

Standard 2- Teaching All Students

By implementing research-based curricula to support social/emotional learning all Helen Keller Elementary School students will benefit from a safe and supportive learning environment.

- Expand and strengthen our commitment to Morning Meetings building-wide by creating a dedicated time within the master schedule for this to happen.
- The Principal and Assistant Principal will facilitate Morning Meetings at each grade level on a monthly basis to support ongoing implementation.

Grade Two Morning Meeting

-Mrs. Cahill- Grade Two Teacher

-Mrs. Cournoyer- Speech and Language Pathologist

-Keller Kids:

- Nigel Philips
- Will Carosi
- Ryan Sullivan
- Isabella Cross
- Maddie Tuxbury

Grades 3-5 Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Survey Results

As a result of the implementation of Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting,

50.6% ALWAYS

36.3% OFTEN

13.1% SOMETIMES

Feel like active participants in their classroom and grade level communities.

Grades 3-5 Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Survey Results Cont.

As a result of the implementation of Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting,

51.2% ALWAYS

29.7% OFTEN

19.1% SOMETIMES

Feel a sense of belonging within their classroom and grade level communities.

Grades 3-5 Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Survey Results Cont.

How have Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting helped you to become a stronger KELLER KID?

Grades 3-5 Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Survey Results Cont.

How have Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting helped you to become a stronger KELLER KID?

“I am not afraid to share and am more confident in my answers”

“I feel more connected to my classmates and grade level community”

“It has helped to separate things I should and shouldn’t do”

“I have learned the importance of making eye contact when I speak”

“I am more open to making new friends”

“I have a better understanding of what it means to be a Keller Kid”

Grades 3-5 Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Survey Results Cont.

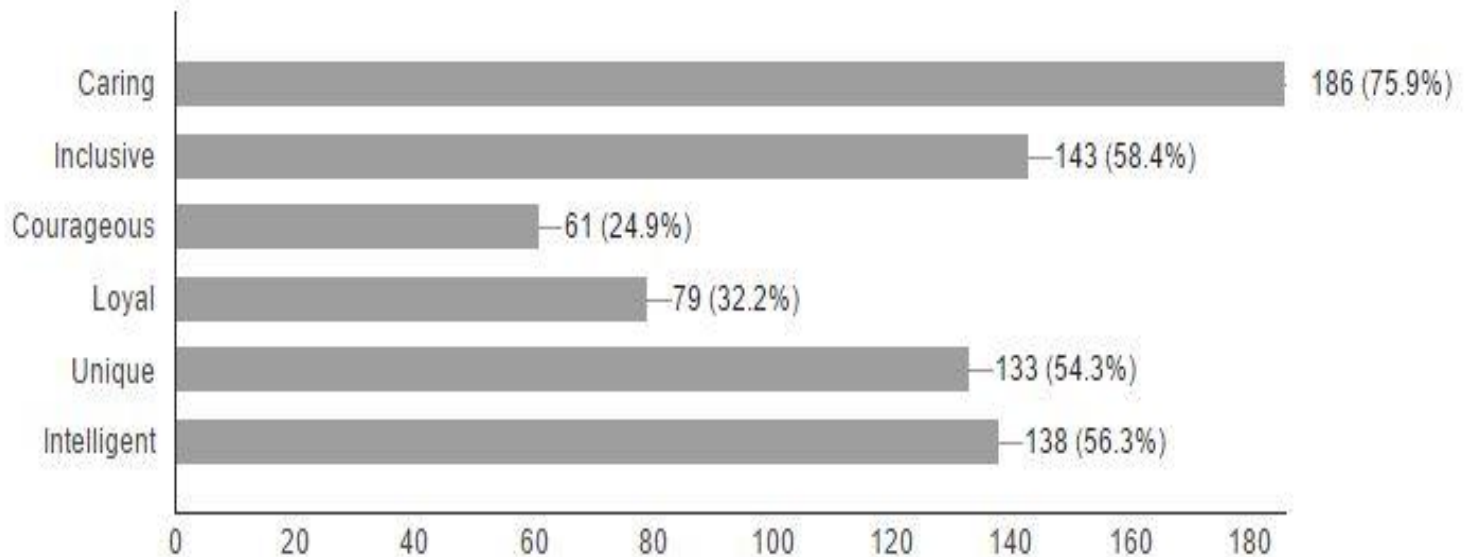
Which words most meaningfully describe what it means to be a KELLER KID?

Caring 76%

Inclusive 58%

Intelligent 62%

Unique 54%



Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Teacher Survey Results

How would you rate your overall implementation of Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting?

35.3% STRONG

52.9% MAKING GOOD PROGRESS

11.8% IMPLEMENTATION NEEDS STRENGTHENING

Responsive Classroom/Morning Meeting Teacher Survey Results

In considering your own personal implementation of Responsive Classroom and Morning Meeting, what is an area you've identified for improvement?

“The implementation of the “Take a Break Chair” as an effective tool for classroom management”

“Shifting the responsibility to students for facilitating Morning Meeting”

“Incorporating a Closing Circle”

“Learning and applying more greetings and activities”

“Becoming formally trained in the Responsive Classroom approach”

Next Steps

- Pre and Post Surveys for Students and Teachers
- Additional Formal Training for Staff
- Facilitate Mini PD Opportunities In House- EdCamp Model
- September 2016- Introduce Core Values
- Explore Core Values Deeper During Administrator Facilitated Morning Meetings
- Celebrate and Share Core Values During School-Wide Morning Meetings

#KellerSchoolCommunity
2016-2017