

# **Conant School Council**

## **School Improvement Plan for the 2015 – 2016 School Year**

**Luther B. Conant School  
Acton, Massachusetts**

**Principal: Damian Sugrue, M.Ed.  
Assistant Principal: Abigail Dressler, M.Ed.**

**May 13, 2015**

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# I. Background and Rationale

## A. About the School Council:

The Conant School Council meets regularly to discuss progress on the School Improvement Plan and share ideas about the school in general.

Council meetings are structured so that issues or ideas are presented and discussed, with a group approach to problem solving. If a situation requires additional information, a task force may be formed. Task forces, consisting of at least one school council member and Conant parents and staff, are used to research and make recommendations to the Council on specific school improvement goals that are established each year. The task forces, which are not standing committees, report to the Council. This line of communication helps to provide direction and determines when a task force has completed its assigned task. Subcommittees of Council members meet as needed to accomplish tasks, such as the preparation of the School Improvement Plan. The work of subcommittees, like that of task forces, is submitted to the Council as a whole for approval or review.

Meetings focus on monitoring the progress made toward accomplishing the Council's goals and discussing school policy issues with parents, students, or staff, which are not being addressed elsewhere by other groups in the school. In this latter capacity, the Council acts as a sounding board and advisor to the principal.

The Conant School Council, as a state-mandated body representing parents and staff, views itself, in relation to the School Committee, as the appropriate vehicle for communicating the concerns and opinions of the Conant community. It would like the School Committee to continue to seek input from the Councils in each of the elementary schools.

## A. 2014 – 2015 Conant School Council Membership:

<u>Conant School Council</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>
Principal: Damian Sugrue	
Assistant Principal: Abigail Dressler	
Parents: Andrea Keenan	2 years
Michelle Brown-Droese	2 years
Ranjini Reddy	2 Years
Christina Pharo	2 years

Staff:	Kimberly Macey	1 Year
	Jana Bardsley	3 Years

## II. Goals for the 2015-2016 School Year

**Goal 1: Community:** Increase student/adult interactions.

- Create opportunities for students to develop connections with adults in the building other than their homeroom teacher.
- Identify students at high risk for behavioral or social difficulties.
- Assign these students to participating staff members in the beginning of the year to make a connection. These staff members will continue to check in with their assigned students throughout the year to build an additional positive relationship for the children.
- Continue to hold short “community” meetings with students and principal/teachers at each grade level, special lunches and “Bus Community” meetings to address specific issues.
- **Responsible Parties:** Principal, teachers, staff.
- **Cost:** Negligible, supplies for special lunches.
- **Indicator of Success:** A stronger community where more students feel safe enough to seek help with issues that negatively affect them.

**Year 1 Goal Review:** For the 2014 – 2015 school year, the new administration took the first step in this initiative. Mrs. Dressler and Mr. Sugrue held lunches with small groups of students every Monday. We were able to have lunch with every student in the school. We were able to connect with many more students than we would have without these lunches. This was proven by the increase in the amount of children who chose to seek us out for interactions in sharing good news and seeking help. Meetings were also held with “bus communities” or grade levels to help alleviate disciplinary concerns. These small group meetings about specific issues were highly effective in encouraging appropriate behaviors.

**Goal 2: Community:** Increase PTO membership, involvement and volunteering.

- Move away from using committee chairs to event planning teams.
- Increase presence on social media to spread their message.
- Increase school/adult interactions, building partnerships, connections, and community.
- Increase the number informational parent evenings with speakers or meetings with administration about topics like K-1 transitions, parenting issues, etc.
- **Responsible Parties:** PTO Board, Principal, and Assistant Principal.
- **Cost:** PTO funds set aside for speakers.

- **Indicator of Success:** An increase in PTO meeting/committee memberships and opportunities for parents to volunteer in the school.

**Year 1 Goal Review:** The PTO made strong efforts to increase participation and involvement. They held meetings in the evening and in the morning to try to accommodate parents. They offered movie nights as community events, not fundraisers. They began to increase their use of social media. They began the process of moving away from committee chairs to event planning teams to get things done. One excellent example is the fact that due to a great deal of work from a grant writing team, we will be improving our playground for the upcoming school year with a new structure and a variety of apparatus.

**Goal 3: Student Growth:** Develop anchor papers to go along with our Narrative, Opinion and Information writing rubrics and prompts to further align our school wide writing program with Common Core Standards and have a mechanism for tracking student growth over time in writing. These anchor papers will allow teachers to better calibrate their scoring of writing, ensuring they have the same expectations for students across grade levels.

- Continue to utilize Professional Learning time to collaboratively score writing according to the rubrics.
- Work in grade level teams to select exemplars for each type of writing to be used as anchor papers.
- Share completed work with district.
- **Responsible Parties:** Principal, Assistant Principal, Teachers.
- **Estimated Cost:** \$0

**Year 2 Goal Review:** Teachers worked with a consultant (Cami Conde) to further develop rubrics for Opinion and Information writing to go along with the rubric for Narrative writing. They worked in teams to practice scoring pieces of student writing to calibrate with grade level team members. Teachers will continue their work in writing by completing this goal in the 2015-2016 school year.