

Notes sent to oml@somervillema.gov

Parent Teacher Conference Debrief

Pre-conference survey was positive and helped frame questions during the meeting, time-frame felt much better than in past years.

Switching time slots and people – caused rescheduling
Suggestions – Send Reminder Slips sent home to parents
Scheduling 2 minute break in between conferences was very helpful. The buffer provided teachers with a much needed break/flex time and/or additional time with parents.

Sean: Out in the world, reviews should never be a surprise. During the last three conferences for me, there was always something that surprised me. Don't surprise parents. Information positive or negative, would have been nice to know sooner rather than during PT conference. More communication preferable. "The more information parents have the better, if they choose to, information they could use a home."

New system of sign ups are working. Teachers and parents more prepared and they felt better about the process (7th and 8th parents)
Suggestion: Schedule 7th and 8th conferences first, then have the sign up for K – 6 so parents can plan for siblings.

What percentage of teachers used pre-conference questionnaire and how many were received back? It was presented as a "best practice." Thoughts for next year would be to make it mandatory (?) something to implement school wide. However, this would be after notice of union support, teacher survey, and parent survey. "This is the first time I haven't felt rushed at a parent teacher conference."

Remind parents to write down their conference time.

Give parents a heads-up so they can address areas of need for their child in order for parents to make informed decisions.

Suggestion for Middle School parents for next year: Parent Workshop on Aspen

Suggestion: Utilize time better for conferences. 8:00 am – 10:00 am in the morning instead of afternoon since it may be easier for parents.

Discussion – Family Partnership Enhancement Subcommittee
Family Survey – Communication and Volunteering

Subcommittee will redesign survey to focus on volunteering and include a blurb about the reason why they are doing the survey. Communication Survey will be separate and done at a different time.

Questions about Volunteering: Can there be a system for volunteers in the building to use their time more efficiently? What are some other tasks for parents to take the work load off teachers so they can spend more quality time with students?

Next SIC Meeting: 12/17/19

25 point discrepancy between general education and special education in terms of achievement