



The Parent Association of the East Village Community School

EVCS Parents Association Meeting
October 16, 2008

Note: This meeting included teachers as well as parents

Present based on sign in sheet: Ned Eisenberg, Patricia McGuire, Quinn Batson, Tony Everett, Kimmy Ng, Ahmed Abdullah, Monique Ngozi Nri, Rachel Kaplan, Patricia McGure, Georga Accola, George Robertson, Robin William, Joy Linscheid, Beth Ellar, Roberta, Clara Lin, Bradley Goodman, Olavia Gibson, Lenore Ogbor, Natalia Santana, Yasuyo Susq, Steven Hornsby, Miranda Ferrara, Marlene Hennessy, Elaine Chu, Helen Greenberg, Brian Appel, Alison Kalfus, Rita Crisafi, Miram Ramirez, Karla Veliz, Diana Lanfranco, Ben somebody?

Monique welcomed everyone.

Folks went around the room and introduced themselves.

Responsive Classroom report on the importance of Morning Meeting

A handout was passed around and Teachers shared their insights.

Morning Meeting gives children a routine place every day to explore and practice social skills and to merge social, emotional, and intellectual learning. Morning meeting also nurtures empathy by offering children an opportunity to practice taking care of others. During Morning Meeting, children gather in a circle for fifteen to thirty minutes at the beginning of the school day and proceed through four sequential components. Although there is much overlap, each component has its own purposes and structure.

1. Greeting: Children greet each other by name. The greetings are structured and often include shaking hands, clapping, singing, and other activities.
2. Sharing: Students share some news of interest, usually personal news, and respond to each other, articulating their thoughts, feelings, and questions in a positive manner.
3. Group Activity: The whole class does a short activity together, building class cohesion through active participation.
4. News and Announcements: Students practice academic skills and build their sense of community by reading and discussing a daily message written by the teacher.

Teachers comments:

Morning meeting builds community

Morning meeting comforts and focuses students

Morning meeting allows students to know the schedule for the day

Morning meeting is where announcements are made.

Morning meeting is a place where students can share important events in their lives.

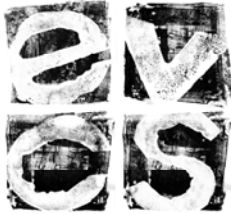
Morning meeting sets the tone for the day.

Morning meeting brings the class together, they go from 25 individuals to 1 class, focused and ready to learn.

When students come late it not only disrupts the meeting process for the rest of the class, but the late student misses out on this crucial time.

Other thoughts from Parents about what it means to be late.

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We should think of ways as a community to support parents that may be struggling making it to school on time – carpooling, combining neighborhood walks, being on call if a nearby parent is ill – etc.

Being late has another effect that we may not be thinking about yet, but middle schools will look at your child's attendance record. Too many late days and you will be dropped from your first choice school.

The teachers will be issuing a newsletter soon and they will include a few paragraphs on the importance of morning meeting and being on time.

Robin and Bradley spent some time reviewing EVCS's Quality Review and Progress Report. Both reports are different ways that the Board of Education measures the success of each school. The Quality Review is more Subjective in that it is the opinion of 1 person taking a tour and assessing the schools' environment and procedures. The Progress Report is more quantitative and is based on data.

EVCS received a Proficient rating on the Quality Review. A copy of the report is available from the office or can be downloaded from the Board of Ed website.

Overview:

What the school does well:

The school runs very smoothly due to a collaborative administration, collegiality of staff, and mutual respect between adults and students.

School leaders have made positive steps in gathering and analyzing school-wide and sub-group data to understand student achievement.

The school has made impressive improvement in student performance in English language arts and math in recent years.

Struggling students make good progress due to effective academic intervention services and an individualized

A copy of the report is available from the office.

EVCS received a B overall rating on the Progress Report. A B rating keeps us in good standing with the Board of Education.

Meeting adjourned