

May 16, 2013

TO: DONNA P. LOPEZ, INTERIM CITY CLERK

FROM: MAYOR HENRIETTA DAVIS

RE: SCHOOL CLIMATE, BULLYING PREVENTION AND CONFLICT MEDIATION

Please place the attached memorandum from Carolyn L. Turk, Deputy Superintendent of Schools on the Communications and Reports from City Officers for the May 20, 2013 City Council Agenda. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR HENRIETTA DAVIS
FROM: CAROLYN L. TURK
SUBJECT: SCHOOL CLIMATE, BULLYING PREVENTION, AND CONFLICT MEDIATION
DATE: MAY 16, 2013

Per your request, below please find information regarding activities taking place across our schools designed to address school climate, bullying prevention, and conflict mediation:

Background Information

Guiding Principle: The school climate/behavior expectation approach being used across schools is built upon the fundamental belief that relationships are the best starting point for creating student growth in self-control and intellectual learning.

To support this belief, ongoing training for Responsive Classroom (JK-5), Developmental Designs (6-8), and Positive Behaviors and Supports (JK-8) has been taking place throughout the school year --- the goal of all training is to ensure well established administrator and teacher and student routines at each site with built in opportunities for review and analysis of data collected ---- this information is then used to implement appropriate actions.

At all grade levels, schools are finding implementation success when administrative support is in place.....the support happens when administrators have a strong understanding of the approach being used --- as a result, this year, in addition to teacher Professional Development, all Upper School Assistant Principals and Heads of Upper School have been participants in training sessions.

District-wide Examples of Activities

- Continued collaboration between Welcoming Schools, the CPS Legal Office and the Cambridge Police Department to provide bullying prevention and intervention support for administrators
- Provided training for the Department of Human Service youth OST program administrators and site supervisors as a means to allow them to train their own staff partners to create continuity in response to bullying

Cc: Superintendent Jeff Young

- Offered a Master's Plus Course for teachers and other school staff on Responsive Classroom positive teacher language
- Provided resources to teachers to support teaching about bullying in elementary and high school as requested
- Provided summer workshops in Responsive Classroom 1 &2 and Developmental Designs 1&2
- Continued workshop sessions on running Developmental Design Advisory groups for teachers in the Upper Campuses
- Provided resources on bullying to staff and families including brochure, reporting form, investigation form and website resources
- Continued student and adult mediations held in elementary and high school led by Conflict Mediator and/or Peer Mediators
- Implemented school based restorative justice circles led by CPS trained community based circle facilitators
- Trained a new cadre of student Mediators

Should additional information be required, I will be happy to assist.
