

Poland Regional High School Board Newsletter

November 2017

Staffing

- Julia Edwards has returned from her maternity leave. We have NO long-term subs in the building for the first time in a long time.

Curriculum, Instruction & Professional Development

- Our Professional development during Wednesday early release time was focused on:
 - ✓ Roundtable groups have been working on preparing students for Student-Led Conferences. The Roundtable coordinators and I developed a template agenda for all students to use to prepare and then worked with teachers to help students gather evidence from their classes to share with parents. We have been using an app called “Moxtra” for students to collect evidence of how they are doing with meeting the school-wide learning expectations. Now that we have Chromebooks, we will be seeking a new way to have students develop portfolios.
 - ✓ Amy Hediger presented to the MS and HS staff about Learning Targets and K-6 curriculum work. Learning Areas will continue to build the curriculum this year, with a focus on assessment of student learning.
 - ✓ We are in the planning stages of developing a school-wide response to an increase in incivility we see in our school. As I hear from other high school colleagues around the state, we are not alone in seeing an increase in hate speech, generalized anger towards others, and uncivil discourse. We have seen this uptick since last fall and the presidential election. This month we will be having our first school-wide “Community Meeting” to engage students in a conversation about how to talk with each other in a respectful way, especially when we disagree. We will likely have more of these meetings to address bullying, cyberbullying and harassment, other issues we are struggling with.

Facilities

- Lights in the high school and middle school parking lots were replaced in anticipation of the winter and darker evenings. Both lots are well lit now, thanks Tony!

Events

- Our fall musical “The Addams Family” was a hit. D’Arcy Robinson, Ben Poulin, and Patrick Martin are all teachers who helped to make it happen.
- Tuesday the 7th was our first Staff vs. Students soccer game sponsored by our Wellness Committee.