



## Operational Group Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2017

Operational Board Facilitator: Kadi LeBlanc

### ***We hope everyone had a happy and safe Halloween!***

**Culture Moment:** Jeff's Advisory will be hosting an Extra Life fundraiser, in which their advisory will come and play games tentatively from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Polaris, to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network. Further information can be found on the Polaris homepage. See Jeff or Keola to sign up.

**Accreditation and Survey Announcements:** Last year, our school went through the accreditation process, and teams of parents, students, and staff as well as a review team assessed our school to determine its strengths and weaknesses. Strengths that were identified include that we are good at strengthening and building community, working in collaborative groups, and making decisions in line with and guided by our mission statement. Some of the areas in which Polaris could use improvement were meeting the specific needs of individual students, transitions for new students and staff from other schools, and our technology infrastructure. We have already started to address the specific needs of students, and are using the MAP and PEAKS test results in achieving this. Instructional strategies are additionally being modified. There is a new elementary language arts teaching style being implemented. The "co-teaching" model has begun to be used, which is where Dawn or Todd come into the classrooms to help teach. Work is being done to make grading and homework requirements clearer and more standardized. A framework of a Homework and Grading Policy is being written. If you have ideas or feedback, please talk to Carol. Teachers have already created common rubrics in language arts and social studies. The staff have also been looking at the results from the climate and connectedness survey, and there is a large disconnect between staff and student answers. Notably, when asked about the presence of respectful relationships, 98% of staff responded positively, while only 50% of students answered in the same manner. Advisors and Op Group Reps also have the results, and this should be talked about in advisory.

**Bryan's Advisory Resolution:** Bryan's advisory has brought back an edited version of the draft they proposed last week. The resolution encourages students to use their mornings for connecting with friends or working on homework; not play video games. This is in an effort to create a more positive and welcoming culture.. Take this back to your advisories, and bring your comments and votes to next week's Op Group meeting.

**AASG Report:** Last Thursday through Saturday, thirteen "lit" delegates from Polaris went to the AASG fall conference in Wasilla. At the conference, sixteen resolutions from across the state were brought before the delegates and voted upon. The keynote speaker, Theresa Gray, gave an inspiring and influential speech about the journey of Syrian refugees to the island of Lesbos. There is a plan to bring her to speak at Polaris. During the conference, Region Four (the Anchorage area) won the Spirit Award for their impressive cheering ability, and Birch won the Delegate of the Region, for bringing up salient points, representing Polaris and the Anchorage area, and generally being a good delegate.

**December Dance:** The December dance will be a "Northern Nights" theme hosted by Op Group and the North House with proceeds going to support Teresa Gray's organization, Mobile Medics International and their next trip to Europe to aid refugees. A preliminary planning meeting will be this Friday in Heidi's room at lunch. Anyone interested in serving on the dance committee is invited to attend.

**Action/Discussion Items:**

- Encourage advisees to sign up for Remind to get minutes, reminders, and other information!  
Text @opgroup to 81010
- Discuss Resolution #10. Bring back Advisory votes for next week's meeting.

***Next meeting: November 7, 2017***

***Culture Moment: Andrea's Advisory***