

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Happy Hollow School Council

DATE OF MEETING: January 19, 2023

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Happy Hollow School Conference Room

Present:

Tricia O'Reilly

Lise Weig

Andrea Gellerstein

Rachel Scott

Miriam Morrison

Ryan Rideau

Nan Jahnke (virtually)

Michelle Claussen (virtually)

Prishant Shukla (virtually)

3:00 1. Public comment- no public comment

3:05 2. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2022 meeting

- Lise makes a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Rachel seconds. All in favor.

3:15 3. Happy Hollow School Family Handbook: Set up and Section 1 Review

- Michelle spoke about issues going on with BASE; very few spots available
 - Questions about extra curricular?
- Tricia shared that the school day is from 7:45-2:45; there is an arm of the system that you pay for which is WSCP (Wayland School Community Programs). The person in charge of it is Pat Keefe. Not her fault or her problem alone to solve. Many other communities have similar problems. This is not part of Tricia's umbrella. Before the pandemic, a robust BASE program plus other clubs were offered. After the pandemic the major problems were staffing and space. Distance protocols. Now we have the space but we do not have the staff. Could different models be looked at.
- WSCP is under the arm of WPS and the superintendent and school committee are the people to contact.
- Spoke about making public comments at school committee meetings and how to access on Waycam
- Handbook-Tricia is eager to make it useful; some ideas from December mtg.
 - Student handbook

- role-playing/modeling for kids
- Family Handbook
 - Set up chronologically
 - What I need to know in Sept., Oct, etc.
 - Changing binary language to non-binary (s/he to they, etc.)
 - Insider's guide for New Parents
- The parts we need to look at are about 25 pages.
- Tricia would like to have a discussion about the ideas and what would be beneficial to families.
 - Ryan likes the idea of chronological but needs to look through current handbook
- Logistics of school - is really the first part of the school year
 - Andrea suggested a combination of setting up chronologically and adding a "frequently asked questions" section
 - Prashant-index of most common questions asked
 - **What is the benchmark for a great handbook?**
 - Nan-are there different handbooks at different elementary schools? Tricia-they are similar but have different procedures
- **Homework assignment: ask non-Wayland residents**
 - **Does your school have a family handbook?**
 - **Where do you find it?**
 - **What do you find most useful about it?**
 - Lise-how do we relaunch the handbook so people really know where it is and how to access it
 - Can we condense it, can we make it simpler to access
 - Tricia would like to make it a live document
 - Michelle shared there were lots of things between pages 16-21 that need to be moved up; then school rules, then other things
 - Tricia-one of the biggest challenges as a principal is communication - too much vs. too little
 - For next time, Tricia will put together a mock document and other members can ask around or look at some handbooks in other towns
 - Possibly a district wide elementary handbook with tabs for the three elementary schools.

3:45 5. Open Discussion/Questions

- Gender neutral bathroom - thoughts from families
 - Could be a bathroom for all (staff or students)
 - Having a private bathroom space could be great for all students if needed

4:00 6. Adjournment (3:57pm)