

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Happy Hollow School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: November 16, 2022

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Happy Hollow School Conference Room

3:00

Tricia introduced School Council as an advisory board.

Lise Weig, Grade 1 Teacher -present

Rachel Scott, Assistant Principal -present

Andrea Gellerstein, Special Educator- present

Michelle Claussen, parent of Kindergarten Student - present

Cristal Scott, parent of 4th grader - present

Prashant Shukla, parent of 1st grader - present

Ryan Rideau, parent of 1st and 4th grader (absent)

Meetings are open to everyone.

Tricia: Very valuable for everyone involved. Nothing secret about it. Helpful for people in the community to know who is on School Council to ask questions or concerns. Want to make sure we follow all the rules.

1. Public comment - None

3:05

2. Discussion of purpose of School Council; Selection of co-chair; identify dates and times for remaining meetings

Co-chair and Tricia will put an agenda together for the next meeting. Notes will be turned into minutes that we'll approve at the next meeting. Would anybody be interested in being the co-chair? Andrea is unanimously voted in as co-chair.

The main purpose of School Council is to be advisory but also some things are mandated as a School Council. One is that we need to review the budget and the other is to work on the School Improvement Plan. We are all working towards the good of the school. We are still looking for a community member.

Any questions about the purpose or what we're going to do today?

State requires us to meet 4 x a year; School Committee would like more. Group decided the following:

3-4 PM

- December 15
- January 19
- February 16
- March 16
- April 13
- May 18

3:15

3. Discussion of proposed Happy Hollow School Improvement Plan

The UNITED goals have been the six goals for the past number of years. There are four goals that Happy Hollow is going to present when it's our turn to present. The three elementary schools work on these together. Some differences, but all within the same goals. We have a real interest at Happy Hollow to move towards and educate ourselves in Restorative Justice practices. Of the six goals, we are looking at the Elevating Achievement goal. Lots of conversation about what exactly the students missed or didn't miss during the pandemic.

As a country, kids did ok with reading. Less ok with math. Even less with writing.

The kids really missed out on the social/emotional component. We are still seeing the repercussions of this in the building today. You will see that reflected in these goals.

Tricia reads the first goal. Many of the goals at the elementary level are to utilize the data from i-Ready and ELA assessments.

Tricia reads the second goal. Though the tracking doesn't begin until Middle School, we can support our students of color who would benefit from more advanced instruction.

Tricia reads the third goal. This one is about vertical alignment in math.

Tricia reads the fourth goal. This is about the social/emotional development of each student.

Thoughts/questions/suggestions?

Andrea: Since Open Circle is no longer a program, some of our newer teachers might not be trained in Open Circle.

Tricia: At HH, our guidance teachers still use Open Circle, but you are correct, we will have to adjust accordingly.

Prashant: General question about philosophy: how much of education research do we actually rely on as we make the priorities? How does that play into setting policies?

Tricia: The folks who are creating these goals are very well informed. State mandates us to choose programs that are research based.

3:30

4. Discussion of HH Budget

Is not releasing out of this meeting because it is a working draft. There is not much money that Tricia has control over. First few pages are salaries.

Takes years for personnel additions.

Classroom supplies, software licensing, replacement materials, conference, etc.

Capital Budget is all done at a district level-it is not within the realm of influence of principal.

The budget will be made public after it is presented to School Committee, then Finance Committee then to the town.

Question: Do you write grants? Tricia: We don't usually qualify for grants because we are Wayland but we do qualify for some grants like Title 1 money.

Question: Have you thought about sponsors? Tricia: There are a lot of laws around who we accept money from. Lots of regulations and rules. Central Office and the director of Finance have the final say about that.

3:45

5. Open Discussion - What would Committee Members like to include in future meetings?

One thing School Council worked on last year was the parent handbook and Tricia would like to continue to look at that.

Question about Spanish immersion program and wondering about languages at the other schools

4:00

6. Adjournment