

School Council: December 15, 2022

Happy Hollow

Present:

Ryan Rideau(virtually)

Michelle Claussen

Andrea Gellerstein

Rachel Scott

Lise Weig

Tricia O'Reilly

1. No public comment.
2. Andrea makes a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, Lise seconds. All in favor.
3. Tricia: On the Happy Hollow website, there is a handbook for students and for families. Teachers review the student handbook with the students throughout the school year. We also ask parents to review the handbook with their children. Handbooks are great tools when you need them. Middle school and High School use the handbooks. We feel like we have a good handle on the student handbook. There are times when we adjust the student handbook. Ex: with new playground equipment, we made changes to procedures in the handbook. More information in the parent handbook that is mandated. We would like it to be a helpful tool. Started this with School Council last year and would like to continue that process this year.
Tricia is interested in what's missing that could be helpful, what's not needed and what would need to be changed. For example: Is there a way to index the document?
Begin with the student handbook.
Lise: From a teacher's perspective, the student handbook is very helpful. Use it a lot to talk about school procedures and behaviors.
Andrea: Great to reference when speaking with kids about rules and expectations.
Ryan: Good tool to have to ensure consistency for students as they move from year to year.
Tricia: Nice to know that rules are there.
Michelle: Nice to incorporate school language into home and use it there.
Lise: I really like the way it's laid out. Family handbook feels more weighty and cumbersome.
Tricia: We can look at this with the lens of how we can visually set this up so it's helpful for folks. Chronologically?
Andrea: Change language to binary.
Lise: I'll help you with that!
Ryan: What about another way to present it?
Tricia: A video would be a great way. Appreciate what you're saying. This is a foundational step 1 piece.
Lise: 5th graders used to do some role playing during all school assemblies. Could we do something like that? Power in kids modeling for kids.

Tricia: Let's look at the Family Handbook. What are you noticing?

Michelle: I like knowing the school rules. And the times. How do I pick up my kid early?

How do I set up an extra conference? And what is the role of the room parent?

Tricia: Insider's Guide to Wayland High School. That could be helpful to all parents, but particularly new parents.

Lise: Room parents can help with playground dates.

Andrea: Room parents would help with volunteers in the classroom.

Lise: Who do I get in touch with?... List of contacts for different questions

When in doubt, always go to the classroom teacher first.

Ryan: Short thing for new parents. These are the acronyms to know. This is why you need to know your room number. When referring to things?

Lise: So much has changed since COVID, so a lot to learn.

Tricia: And it's confusing for everyone to learn, especially since it's changed so many times in the past year.

Lise: As a parent when you get the newsletter The Hawk; we often skim them, so as a teacher Lise will send out specific things like an early dismissal and will put it in her newsletter. Delicate balance of too much information or not enough information.

Tricia: Highlight sections of the family handbook in The Hawk?

Michelle: Some sections are not clear (birthday treats for example).

Tricia: Bullying protocol is in the handbook and a lot of it is legal stuff we have to have.

Tricia: There is a lot to do here but maybe we can revamp it and send it out to the newer parents on the school council so they can look it over with fresh eyes.

4. No one had anything new they wanted on the agenda for January.
5. We had an extended conversation about how to get on the school website, and answered lots of questions about student absences.
6. Adjourned at 4:05