

School Council Meeting Minutes – Monday, January 28, 2019

Attendees: Mary Oldach, Sharon Hughes, Ann Carpenter, Adam Capen, Angela Porter, Marc Smith, Karen Booth, Justin Tavano, Mary Levy, Becky Tobojka, Lisa McManamin, Meg Shaffer, Karen Booth, Katie Cloney, Katie Carey, John Larivee

Meeting started with go around introductions. All members were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting. Motion to approve was made by Justin Tavano, seconded by Katie Carey, all in favor: all.

School Improvement Plan Update

Guided Reading Goal #3 – Discussion lead by Mary Oldach

When a teacher is working in a small reading group; it is differentiated by level and all students are taught at their instructional level and being moved ahead. Student reading levels are determined by assessments and teacher judgement and are an alphabetical scale. A leveled reader example was shared (Level E was shown). “A Tooth is Loose”. These books are “short reads” to focus on the needed skills, not novels or chapter books. Depending on the skills that the students need, the areas being addressed in guided reading groups can be, for example, phonics or comprehension skills such as main idea and details.

The Guided Reading Committee members are Amanda Malone (3), Julia Blois (K), Ashley Cook (2), Connie Hebert (Reading), Kathryn Shannon (K), Susan Rusch (1), Rebecca Riley (1), Mary Oldach and Sharon Hughes. The committee analyzed current guided reading resources in the school and considered books from many publishers. The school is lacking books for level J and up, and two sets of guided readers (400 titles) have been ordered .

Amanda Malone, Julia Blois, Sue Rusch and Mary Oldach visited Forestdale and M.E. Small schools and toured the reading rooms. Mary showed pictures of reading sets; genres of all kinds. M.E. Small leveling system had a book closet with a unique organization system that was concise to check in and check out & organized so they are returned and put in proper place.

- School Council Members visited room 66 after discussion
- White boards will be left for teacher use

Becky Tobojka stated that Kindergarten Teachers expressed concern that “newer” teachers do not feel that have a strong foundation for reading/writing. The “newer” staff is eager for professional development.

Katie Carey asked if the committee had a fourth grade representative – Mary said no but their needs were considered before ordering.

Strategic Plan (revised final copy) was dispersed to members. Mary stated that the Strategic Objectives are aligned with School Vision Plan.

Budget Update

- Mary indicated to members that the 2019-2020 budget has approximately a 1 million dollar shortfall.
- Harwich and Chatham have to contribute based on a minimum contribution that is calculated by the State.
- Budget includes Health Care 10% increase
- Published Proposed Budget – regional budgets always look better in May or June. Still many “moving” pieces. Each school has been asked to see how to manage for less.

Transportation

- No bids were received. The District is in negotiations with Cape Cod Collaborative to provide bus services. Nauset, Mashpee, Falmouth and one of the islands all use the Collaborative for transportation. About ridership...currently about 480 of our 563 students use the buses. District is legally required to provide transportation within a mile from school. Fuel and Labor are the bulk of costs. Question was asked: Can we charge for transporting students? Marc said no as the state pays the district a dollar amount per student.

HES Playground Update

- District has put out for a Request for Quote for design services for the playground, playing fields and PK playground. The next playground committee meeting is February 7th. Approximately 15 staff members volunteered to be on the committee and Erin Cronen, Ashley Cook and Emily Reed will sit on the committee. Tina Gaines (new School Committee member) has expressed interest in sitting on committee. The HES PTO is sponsoring a Boosterthon Fun Run and proceeds will be donated towards the playground project. A percentage will be shared with Boosterthon.
- Nurse Holly Tavano has been recording splinter removals since last year (87) (50) this year as of January. Audit revealed the wood contains a chromium arsenic chemical at very low levels. Soil is being tested as well for contaminants.
- The legacy of the Castle in the Clouds community build structure will be carefully considered as this project moves forward. A seat on the committee has been offered to the community individual that has expressed concerns about the Castle in the CLOUDS legacy.

Grant Updates/Other Topics

- In cooperation with the Harwich Department of Public Works, a Safe Routes to School grant application for \$689,000 for sidewalk improvements has

been submitted. A \$500 grant was received from The Garden Club of Harwich for resources for the courtyard garden to be recertified as a National Wildlife Federation Schoolyard Habitat.

- Becky Tobojka thanked Mary for submitting the grants as it involves a lot of work and time. Mary stated the school was actually contacted by the State to submit the grant. Harwich DPW has been an equal partner in this grant process.
- Some discussion about the Little League playing field boundaries were discussed. Mary shared that we now are able to use these fields for our recess or time outside.
- The custodial crew may “line” a soccer field area for our use.
- Katie Cloney talked about needing volunteers for Fun Run, March 1st, Pep Rally will be done by grade level.
- Mary talked about the T-shirts for students and how each “lap” will be marked off on the students shirts once completed by student with a marker. Shepley Products and Five Continents catering each donated \$1000 for the purchase of student T-shirts.
- PTO Fudge Fundraiser was successful. We may not do Math-A-Thon or Jump Rope for Heart this year.
- PTO will do the Shamrock Shimmy again this year, DJ will be hired. Face painting and other fun activities to be part of Shimmy. 3-5 PM will be the hours this free event.
- Field Day will be an all school event, all day event this year to include a “barbeque”. More consistent with what Field Day was years ago at HES. Food Director has indicated a “cook out” is doable.
- Suggestion to look for “tents” for shelter from the sun.
- Harwich Fire Department will come with trucks to “hose/cool off” students at the conclusion of field day. This is done at Chatham Elementary on their field day. June 11th is the scheduled date.

Meeting is adjourned at 4:10.

