

School Council Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2022

2:30 PM

Attending: Brett Johnson, Derek Smith, Kerry Ni, Katie Carolan, Laura Accettella

- Approval of October 6, 2022 Minutes
- School Updates
 - Teachers supporting the No Homework Night on 11/1 for Town Meeting
 - One Book, One School (OBOS) on 11/2. Author of book will be presenting to each class. Supplemental classroom activities provided as well.
 - Veteran's Day Breakfast to honor current and former military veterans.
 - Second Step will be starting term 2. 9 lessons for each class (3 per term). Slideshows posted so parents can access that curriculum. Natural progression from the Toolbox used in elementary school.
 - Looking into reformatting Open House night to make it more effective. Committee formed to explore that.
- Parent Updates
 - OpenSciEd curriculum - some confusion with curriculum vs what's posted on the district website and with where to find information for parents to support their students. Work in progress. Using OpenSciEd throughout the middle school to align with the Massachusetts learning standards. Will ask if an overview can be provided of the 1-2 units being piloted this year.
 - Positive feedback on afterschool activities being posted. Are there other outdoor activities that could be available before weather gets too cold.
 - Bus - Do you need a note to go on a different bus for school reasons? Yes, needs to be signed by both parent and teacher. However, a note is not needed to take a different late buses.
 - Parent Education presentation (Joanna Dutra) on building better relationships with middle school students on Wednesday, Nov 16. Information will be posted PTO websites, HMS Connection and follow up email if needed.
- Community Updates

- **School Committee Updates**
 - **Separate articles for the Foster project**
 - **Changing up the program review process to a 2 year cycle. Self study one year and then present another year. Also visiting other schools to compare. Start with history department.**
 - **METCO director - applying for grants, ways to support students when they go to college, arranging tours of HBC's. One HMS-specific grant will be for a speaker who will be coming this spring (April?). Social media discussion (mention on the Anchor) open for HMS parents? Reviving host families starting with elementary school students.**
- **Budget Updates**
 - **Begun the process, starting with a staffing audit**
 - **Will be discussing at length in December meeting**
 - **SC starts meeting regularly in January on the budget**
 - **1/12 school principals will present individual school budgets**
- **Review of Proposed School Council Goals**
 - **2 year plan**
 - **Goal 1: Survey parents this spring and next spring on communication and culture**
 - **Goal 2: Target: 70% meeting or exceeding expectations? Check with department directors**
 - **Goal 3: Second Step curriculum, various assemblies/speakers, etc will be action steps**
- **HMS Student Handbook Evaluation**
 - **Proposed Timeline**
 - **HMS handbook soon needs to reflect the laws and procedures for students with disabilities.**
 - **Take separate sections to work on between school council meetings and review during.**
 - **When do we have handbook reviewed by an attorney to make sure it is in compliance? Align with school committee policies and then seek council?**

- **Expansion of School Council**
 - **Adding 1 teacher, 1 parent. Jen Driscoll will be the additional teacher rep.**
 - **Karen Daley will coordinate an election for the parent rep.**
- **Calendar for 2022/23 Meetings**
 - **11/17/2022**
 - **11/28/2022**
 - **12/19/2022**
 - **1/30/2022**
 - **2/27/2022**
 - **3/27/2022**
 - **4/24/2022**
 - **5/30/2022**
 - **June TBA**

General Business and Items Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

- **Preview Agenda for the next meeting?**

Adjournment