

School Council Meeting September 27, 2023

Attendance: Mrs. Bertrand, Mrs. Palek, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Haley, Mr. Lovell, Mrs. McKenna, Mrs. DeGrenier, Mr. Wilson

Introductions and welcome to new members by Mrs. DeGrenier.

OPEN COMMENT:

- Recess Equipment – it is wonderful having so many new items for students.

Naming of Co-chair and Secretary

- Mrs. Hill: Co-Chair
- Val Haley: Secretary

Teaching and Learning:

- Center School received the distinction from DESE that we are a School of Recognition for MCAS performance Spring of 2023. Mrs. DeGrenier thanked everyone who played a role in this success and achievement. Tonight we are receiving recognition at the School Committee meeting.
- MCAS writing results have been distributed to teachers to review the actual writing samples and scores. Teachers will have a chance at an upcoming PD session to spend time reviewing and analyzing them.
- School Improvement Plan update – we're working on a progress report for the Asst. Superintendent to present at an upcoming School Committee. We will provide an update to the School Council at our next meeting. Mrs. Palek suggested that even though we don't have written goals around infrastructure, we should still focus on maintenance of the facility such as HVAC system, etc. Mrs. DeGrenier mentioned that we do keep up with changes/updates to technology, playground equipment, and the playground surface. The DPW is located right next door at Sylvester School ... a very good thing to help keep a close eye on our facility. The landscaping, especially in the courtyard, has been upgraded over the years with new planting beds. Tulip bulbs will be planted shortly.

Family and Community Engagement:

- Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Hill provided an update from the first PTA meeting. Mrs. Hill explained that the PTA is starting to look at more social events for parents so there are opportunities to get together and get to know one another. The one time campaign has been successful this month. This money allows Center School to enrich and support PTA programming. The Fun Run will occur this school year. Although it brings in good revenue, the Fun Run funds need to last schools at least two years. We will be having the Fun Run in March 2024.

- Field trips are held at every grade level. This year the district is rolling in the cost of a nurse to the price of every trip, which will increase the cost by a dollar or two. Mrs. DeGrenier mentioned that the 4th grade is thinking about a trip to Blue Man Group. While there might be a couple of grants to offset the price of the trip, each student would need to pay \$45-\$60. Members of the School Council discussed the high cost of this trip and whether it is worthwhile. Some ideas included: putting a notice out early to parents so they know that it is upcoming, itemize the cost of the trip such as buses, tickets, nursing, etc., and inform parents that this trip would replace the Gillette Stadium trip that has occurred the last few years. We currently have a tentative date for the trip while we solicited feedback from the School Council and while we write/submit the grants to Mass Cultural Council and Hanover Cultural Council. Overall, the School Council believes this is a worthwhile trip for our fourth grade students. The third grade is heading out to Plimouth Patuxet on November 8th. Information about the trip will be going out shortly.

Human Capital:

- The only position not filled at the moment is an LTS Reading Teacher. The district is asking schools to hold off on hiring due to budget constraints. We also have five Tutor positions available. These positions provide support in our sub-separate programs. A discussion was held about how best to fill these positions. Mrs. DeGrenier mentioned that we currently post them on Proxy so that they are filled by a substitute.

Sustainable Funding:

- No items to discuss

Safety and Security:

- ALICE training will take place October 3rd with Joel Barrett and the Hanover Police Department. This year we will be putting the school in lockdown using the alarm systems. Students **WILL NOT** be included in this drill; however, we will do a drill shortly after with the students. Parents will be notified beforehand.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th at 3:15pm.

Minutes submitted by: Mr. Russ Wilson