

## **Center School Council Meeting Minutes October 2, 2019 – Center School**

**Present:** Jane DeGrenier, Principal; John Galluzzo, Parent; Laura Louko, Parent; April Sheridan, Parent; Jill Joy, Teacher Representative; Mark Lancaster, Teacher Representative; Russ Wilson, Assistant Principal, Ex-officio.

**Absent:** Jacqueline Porro, Parent; Elizabeth Wilcox, Parent; Alicia DiBara, Teacher Representative; Lori McKenna, Teacher Representative.

### **Introductions**

Principal DeGrenier called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m. and welcomed all new and returning members of the council.

### **Open Comment**

Principal DeGrenier introduced the Open Comment period. Ms. Sheridan asked about whether or not the school's assistance dog, Gianna, is shared among schools. Principal DeGrenier stated that as she was owned by Ms. Maddon, she stayed by her side. Ms. Joy said it would be nice to see more work done with assistance dogs. Ms. Louko stated that there is a free program, Dog Bones, that provides dogs for reading to. Principal DeGrenier stated that there is also a service dog in the school for a student with diabetes.

Ms. Joy said that the school year was off to a good start, considering the mass mergers of Center and Cedar Schools. She felt that all students feel that they are a part of Center School, and that "Start with Hello Week" had been a success. Principal DeGrenier said that "Inclusive Schools Week" at the end of October should be beneficial in that regard as well.

Mr. Galluzzo stated asked whether or not the bus route changes had been effective, stating that his middle schooler had had his bus pass him by one day, and the time changed by five minutes. He wondered whether or not this was indicative of any larger problems. Principal DeGrenier said that there had not been much feedback about buses. Ms. Joy said that the ability to track the buses on a website has been a great tool. Consensus among the parent representatives as that the email about the bus tracking website should be sent again, as none of them had known about it.

Mr. Galluzzo introduced several updates from the Hanover Historical Society. The large exhibit in the lobby would be changed within the week to a Pilgrim era themed display, in conjunction with the upcoming 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower landing. The Stetson House Scholars exhibit for outside of the cafeteria would be updated within two weeks. Rockland Trust had granted the Society \$1,000 in support of the Stetson House Scholars program; as the schools have merged, and there will be many more field trips to handle, the society would love to begin coordination with Ms. Donahue early. The Society received a \$2,000 grant that includes the creation of a new maritime history program with the school. Mr. Lancaster volunteered to liaison with the Society to create the program. And the Society and Center School will be applying for a Stars in Residence grant from the Mass Cultural Council to expand Stetson House Scholars to reach all ten third grade classrooms.

### **School Improvement Plan**

Principal DeGrenier called for a parent volunteer to be listed as co-chair for the coming school year. Ms. Sheridan agreed to do so. She also invited all to the town's open meeting law training. The council reviewed a draft of the school improvement plan.

**Personnel Update**

Principal DeGrenier stated that Center School has reexamined its needs around Speech and Language instruction. The unfilled formerly all-inclusive position will now be split apart to include a long term sub who will work on SPED Speech and Language needs, and a 15-hour Speech and Language position that will probably be contracted through an agency. The school entered the year down one reading teacher, but that role will be filled starting October 21. The school is also looking for two tutors to work with students with special needs, citing that generally Speech and Language hiring is a significant need at the moment.

**Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

The council will discuss the budget, the school improvement plan, a personnel update, a Historical Society update, and more at their next meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.