

Center School Council Meeting Minutes November 6, 2019 – Center School

Present: Jane DeGrenier, Principal; John Galluzzo, Parent; Elixabeth Wilcox, Parent; Laura Louko, Parent; April Sheridan, Parent; Jill Joy, Teacher Representative; Alicia DiBara, Teacher Representative; Lori McKenna, Teacher Representative; Mark Lancaster, Teacher Representative; Russ Wilson, Assistant Principal, Ex-officio.

Absent: Jacqueline Porro, Parent.

Introductions

Principal DeGrenier called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Open Comment

Principal DeGrenier introduced the Open Comment period. Ms. Ms. Joy stated that in the wake of the recent death of faculty member Courtney Neville, she was overwhelmed with the outpouring of support that had come from the Hanover community.

Hanover Historical Society

Mr. Galluzzo reported on several updates from the Hanover Historical Society. The large exhibit in the lobby had been installed with a 17th century theme, in conjunction with the upcoming 400th anniversary of the *Mayflower* landing. The Stetson House Scholars exhibit for outside of the cafeteria would be updated soon thereafter. The Society and Center School have been granted a \$5,000 grant for a Stars in Residence program from the Mass Cultural Council to expand Stetson House Scholars to reach all ten third grade classrooms. He announced that the historical society will be granting all third grade families in Hanover a free membership to the historical society at the conclusion of the project. Rockland Trust had also granted the Society \$1,000 in support of the Stetson House Scholars program, allowing for a program with a budget of \$5800 as designed. The society would love to begin coordination with Ms. Donahue and the 3rd grade team early.

Mr. Galluzzo and Mr. Stephen O'Neil, executive director of the historical society, had met with Mr. Lancaster regarding the maritime history grant program. Mr. Lancaster reported that the 4th grade team had showed hesitancy with the initial idea for the program, as they did not want to take away anything from the third grade team. Mr. Lancaster reported that he would regroup with his team and report out later.

MCAS

Mr. Wilson reported that overall there would only be a few changes to the MCAS testing procedures this school year. One of the major changes would be that some completed essays from the previous year would be released so that scoring rubrics could be better defined. Teachers and administrators will now be able to better focus on where our student population gains and loses ground comparative to other schools. He stated that Department of Education links provide access to data that can help narrow down areas of focus, subpopulations of kids who need assistance in specific topics, and more. A discussion on the logistics of testing followed.

Budget

Principal DeGrenier stated that she had just received the file to begin the budget process. She would approach the teachers to ask about needs (books? supplies? new positions? etc.). Mr. Galluzzo stated

that it would be interesting to not have to predict the size of an incoming kindergarten class to determine staffing needs (as the schools had merged and there was no kindergarten at Center School).

Other Business

Principal DeGrenier stated that she had attended the town's session on the Open Meeting law and asked the council to review the information for approval, which they did.

New Business

Ms. Wilcox asked whether or not parents would be invited to participate in the discussion of future staffing at the school. Principal DeGrenier stated that all parent feedback was valuable.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The council will discuss a Historical Society update, MCAS, the School Improvement Plan, the Budget and more at their next meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.