



HES School Council Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022

2:45 – 3:45pm

THIS MEETING IS VIRTUAL

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jzh-gwjy-nnf>

Or dial: (US) +1 352-503-8104 PIN: 693 302 775#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/jzh-gwjy-nnf?pin=1139207870201>

In attendance: Mary Oldach, Sharon Hughes, Joy Jordan, Katie Cloney, Julia Blois, Meg Shaffer, Kara Boule, Angie Porter, Jessica Muldoon, Ann Carpenter, Patricia Smith, Karen Booth

Agenda

- Review of [Minutes from 11/15/21 Meeting](#) The group reviewed the minutes and unanimously approved them
- FY23 Budget Update
 - Upcoming workshop with School Committee and Principals/Central Office admin to present budget requests/information for FY23
 - Mary shared the [presentation](#) she will be using at the workshop
 - Enrollment projections for FY23 were reviewed - overall slight decrease from 493 total to 459, next year there will be five sections per grade level at all grades

- Preschool will increase the number of sections due to the tremendous increase in the number of students with autism/special needs entering the school combined with the lack of experience in school due to COVID. Will hire second intensive needs teacher
- Kindergarten registration process is about to begin. Hoping to offer online registration for Kindergarten starting this year.
- COVID created a situation where many students were not in preschool or daycare so it becomes harder to locate and identify them
- Reduction in number of sections in Grade 4 from 6 to 5 will cover the budgetary cost for adding intensive special needs teacher
- Mary would also like to add additional reading teacher
- ESSER funding did help expand some support position at least through 2023
- Reading achievement has been a concern
- MAP testing shows current data re: growth in reading
- Assessment by teachers done one on one (IRLA) also gives data to consider. The number of students at emergency or at risk level have dropped measurably from November to now, and students at proficient level have increased
- That data supports Mary's request for a third reading teacher
- ARC has helped with improved resources
- Other high priority budget items include support materials for math fluency, handwriting/cursive, and reading consumables and professional development/coaching
- Mary asked the teachers to share any input on ARC.
 - Trying year for teachers in general
 - The children love the books and seem to move through the levels quickly, the books help them feel like a reader; program is individualized; incorporates lots of writing; gets books in their hands much sooner in K; good tracking; program also includes a goal-setting system for students; can be challenging adapting to a new program and all say so far so good

- Ann Carpenter is helping support program with titles at Brooks Free Library
- American Reading Company (ARC) Implementation Update
 - Student Progress (see above notes)
 - 100 Book Challenge - it's actually 100 15-minute increments of reading. Once they complete that, their name is read on morning announcements and they earn a collectible coin. Some students have already reached 200 and 300.
 - Nov 1 to Dec 15 - 202 students
 - Dec 15-Jan 10 - 92 students
 - Seems to be motivating for students. K not participating yet
- Playground Update
 - The playground is a Town of Harwich project, as is the funding by the CPA (approved Sept 2021). COVID created delays due to internal position changes in town, supply chain delays, etc. Groundbreaking will occur in March and construction will begin then. Storage trailers currently there will be moved. Hope is to have it completed by early summer. Teachers have been great keeping students occupied in creative ways and all are looking forward to having a completed playground. Recommendation of the company was not to begin work in fall because poured rubber flooring needs certain temperatures that wouldn't be likely in winter.
 - Recess activities will be relocated while construction is occurring
- After School Tutoring and Clubs - After taking break post-holiday return for COVID precautions, activities are resuming now
 - 15 clubs running this winter session, 134 students -- lego to dance to STEM/coding, lots of opportunities. Grant funding helps promote the science and technology clubs with new equipment
 - In addition, COVID relief funds support after-school tutoring program in reading, writing, and math in Grade 1-4. Two sessions a week, fully free to families, small groups led by certified teachers to help students who need that support and to help close gaps for students due to COVID and other reasons.

- Other items/questions:
 - How do students get selected for the tutoring program?
 - They are students in the intervention program who were recommended based on MAP scores and further assessments by interventionists
 - Potential celebration for playground groundbreaking in mid to late March
 - Next meeting March 7, 2022

[HES School Improvement Plan](#)
[School Council Members 2021-2022](#)

Future Meeting Dates:

March 7, 2022

May 9, 2022