



HES School Council Meeting - Minutes

Monday, November 15, 2021

HES Professional Library

2:45 – 3:45pm

Present: Mary Oldach, Kara Boule, Angie Porter, Kathryn Giangregorio, Pat Smith, Justin Tavano, Karen Booth, Jessica Muldoon

- Introduction of Members and Role of a School Council - members introduced themselves and their connection to the school as a parent, community member, teacher or administrator.
- Mrs. Oldach reviewed the role of a School Council which is to:
 - Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
 - Identify the educational needs of students attending the school
 - Review the annual budget for that school building
 - Formulate a School Improvement Plan
- HES at a Glance - Mrs. Oldach reviewed the overall demographics of the school as follows:
 - 494 Students - Preschool through Grade 4
 - 100 staff members
 - 42% Free and Reduced Lunch

- 75% White, 25% Non-White
 - Average Class Size = 18
- HES Back to “Normal” - Mrs. Oldach, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Giangregorio reviewed that many of the school routines are back to normal for the students with social distancing, masking and other COVID protocols in place. This includes students traveling to their unified arts classes, eating lunch in the cafeteria and going on field trips. Visitors and volunteers are now allowed if entering the school for an “educational purpose”. Reading and Math Intervention programs have been reinstated after these staff members had to be assigned as classroom teachers last school year. Other HES traditions and experiences have returned such as the Book Fair and therapy dog visits.
- HES New Homework Policy: Mrs. Oldach reviewed the Homework Task Force recommendation that all Grade 1 -4 homework be 30 minutes of reading. Math fact practice and long term projects will all be completed in school. Parents on the Council gave their feedback on the reading homework experience, noting that their children who are more avid readers had more independence and some children require more parental oversight to complete the 30 minutes.
- American Reading Company (ARC) - Mrs. Oldach reviewed the implementation of our new English Language Art Curriculum from ARC. The initial data coming from the benchmark assessments of our students reading proficiency is of concern. 34.7% of our students are reading at the emergency level, 31.9% at risk. 25.5% are reading a grade level or higher. Mrs. Oldach believes that the reason for the low reading proficiency is multi-faceted and includes the impact of COVID, many years without a vetted standards based curriculum and assessments, and the need to differentiate instruction. ARC offers intensive, student focused instructional practices. The goal is to move our student reading proficiency to at least 50% by the end of this school year.
- FY 23 Budget - the proposed budget is level funded, meaning no increase. HES school programming should remain intact with this budget. Mrs. Oldach noted that there will be one less classroom at

HES next school year when the fourth grade reduces from 6 to 5 classrooms. It is anticipated that there will be 5 classrooms per grade level.

- Music Class with Ms. Riley - the last portion of this meeting was spent in the Music classroom with Ms. Riley. Everyone participated in some elements of her music class which highlighted movement and multimodal methods for learning about rhythm and note values.

[HES School Improvement Plan](#)

Future Meeting Dates

January 10, 2022

March 7, 2022

May 9, 2022