

Heritage School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 26, 2022

4:00 - 5:00 in Virtual Meeting

In Attendance:

- Peter Olson, Principal
- Parent Representatives: Sarah Roe, Pam Staney, Sabrina Webb
- Teacher Representatives: Fara Fuhrmann, Chris Lubenow

1. Call to Order - 4:00 PM

- Motion made to accept minutes; minutes seconded and accepted.

School Updates:

Items discussed:

Covid Procedures and Scheduling Changes:

- An extra lunch was added to create extra space in the cafeteria to control spread of the Omicron variant. Peter indicated that lunch times may revert to pre-Omicron status effective Monday, 1/31/22.
- Omicron precautions also included social distancing via desk placement in rows within the classroom. As with cafeteria seating, Peter shared that possible desk rearrangement and opportunities for small groupings within the classroom may occur during the week of 1/31/22.
- Covid test kits are currently available to teachers and will soon be available to families as well. This will eliminate the need for contact tracing at school. Home testing is based on an honor system. Kits include 2 tests (1 for each week) and will be available biweekly.

Heritage Programs & Updates:

- Heritage teachers recently voted on a new school emblem, "Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow". After asking about Council thoughts, Peter said that he will take it to the School Committee for approval. He would also like to look at the School Mission Statement. He is hoping for Council and student involvement in determining a new and relevant Statement. Once it has been approved, it will be posted throughout the building.
- A brief update ensued re: the success of Overlook Light-up, anonymous donations and Rose of Sharon Lodge gift cards
- After-the-Bell started 2 weeks ago and appears to be engaging to students and adults alike. Peter mentioned that one of the programs revolves around "slime" and that he had the privilege of participating in the "edible slime" session.
- Reading Olympics: In conjunction with Dr. Seuss's birthday, students will be able to participate in a related read-a-thon. This event is being spearheaded by Mrs. Lapierre, Mrs. Coddington, and Mrs. Lemansky. These co-chairs would like for all students to be rewarded with a book. Outside activities relating to this event will take place later in the year.
- CKLA: Grade level teachers met to work on CKLA during the recent Professional Development day. Students seem to be responding favorably to the grade level topics that have been introduced thus far this year. Per Peter, one strength of the program is that it

teaches students to read for facts and knowledge through its nonfiction topics. One concern raised during PD by teachers, however, is that the program is so time intensive that it is challenging to find time to break into small groups as well as to include remediation for struggling students. Another concern involves the additional time commitment that would ensue if the District decides to adopt the written expression part of the curriculum. Would that take away from other content areas? Farah shared that CKLA does incorporate science, so that area of learning has been built in through the program.

Budget Meetings:

- Results of the 2 meetings thus far have shown some promise. Peter is still hoping to add a 4th grade teacher for the 2022-23 school year. It has passed the first two rounds of meetings.
- CKLA materials will be needed in the upcoming school year. While the readers will be reusable next year, the District will need to replace workbooks. These will need to be purchased yearly. Future budget considerations may also include the cost of adding a writing component.

School Improvement Plan:

- Focus on Goal 1: Teaching and Learning/Academics

- Intervention programs are needed for struggling students and students with special needs. Chris indicated that this is particularly true for math as the current program (Envision) is extremely challenging for students with disabilities due to its level of complexity and enriched language. Fara shared that there is a newer version of Envision that the District may wish to explore.
- Math diagnostics is currently being conducted through IXL. Peter indicated that Envision has its own diagnostics and that this might replace IXL at a more manageable cost. The accuracy of IXL monitoring was questioned at the meeting. Fara explained that teachers have access to information that monitors scores, how much time was spent on IXL, etc. Of greater concern to teachers is that we have limited numbers of Chromebooks available for simultaneous student use.

SEL: Peter would like to continue to focus on this aspect of student learning. Currently, Sarah Coddington serves as Heritage School Adjustment Counselor. In addition to providing class lessons at each grade level, she is available to work with students individually. This led to a discussion about relevant programs that Sarah is currently using and the possibility of adding other such programs (e.g. "Choose Love"). Sabrina Webb suggested that perhaps Sarah could submit a grant application to the Ed. Foundation as there is available funding for small business and nonprofits.

The January School Council meeting concluded and was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Lubenow