

Heritage School Council

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: December 9, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

In Attendance:

Peter Olson, Principal/Educator, Co-Chairperson

Mrs. Sara Roe, Parent Representative

Mrs. Pam Staney, Parent Representative

Ms. Sabrina Webb, Parent Representative

Christine Lubenow, Teacher Representative

Tina O'Donnell, Teacher Representative

Fara Fuhrmann, Teacher Representative

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Introductions:

- This was the first meeting of the 2021 - 2022 School Council. Members were introduced, and Mr. Olson provided an overview of the purpose of the School Council, the School Improvement Plan (SIP), and typical meeting norms as follows:
  - Start and end meetings on time,
  - One person talking at a time,
  - Be open to other people's opinions, and show respect for alternate points of view,
  - Stick to the agenda as much as possible,
  
- Public Comment: The School Council Meeting is open to any community member who wishes to attend. The business of the School Council is also open to public comment. We can share emails we might get from the public, or if someone from the public would like to attend they are welcome. Public Comment will be an open item on every agenda, and agendas are posted through Erin Glenn in Central Office.

3. New Business:

- Monthly assignments for Meeting minutes will be as follows:

December - Fara Fuhrmann

January - Tina O'Donnell

February - Christine Lubenow

March - Pam Staney

April - Annette Mitchell

May - Ashley Guyette

4. Peter Olson shared his initial thoughts about what areas we might focus on.

- We are an academic institution, and need to focus on foundation skills in Math and ELA,
- SEL - School Adjustment Counselors are extremely busy. As we return to a normal school year, we still have a lot of work to do to be back to normal. Pam S. questioned if we may add a small goal to focus on staff. How is the Social Emotional health of the staff, and should that be addressed in some way? Sabrina suggested we look at the Social Emotional health of the community in general. Be aware of the resources available, such as DCEF or Harrington Hospital. We will look at this goal in more depth in late January or early February.
- Communication and Community Engagement - We have two trees at the Overlook that Heritage School is decorating, and we hope that those can be moved to the center of town at some time. We are adopting two families, along with the fire department, to assist for Christmas. Tina suggested the Masonic Angels and Paire Foundation will also be willing to help a student family if we have others.
- Building a School Budget - We will look at budgetary concerns such as supplies and staff (adding and subtracting). Peter would like to reach for an additional Fourth grade teacher. For the past few years, we have had 7 sections of 2nd and 3rd grade, which are reduced to 6 sections of fourth grade, and then back up to 7 sections at grade 5. This has resulted in large class sizes in fourth grade, which historically remains an area that sees a great deal of out-of-town transfers.

Peter is looking to do a zero-budget. We will try to maintain current cost levels, while taking into account the needs of all areas including the nurse, SPED testing materials, etc. Peter will share the outcome of his budget meeting with Richard Mathieu, and then we will discuss options.

5. Fara Fuhrmann was elected as Co-Chairperson of the Student Council. There were no objections, and the motion was carried.

6. Best Meeting Days - The Council discussed moving the meeting to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will likely be virtual, however the hope is to return to in-person meetings at some point after that. On January 15th the DESE is expected to come out with new masking guidelines.

7. Other Business - Sabrina provided an update us that the Heritage School is doing well in the DCEF Venmo Challenge. Donations can be sent-in by check, or through the website. Pam asked Sabrina to send information about how to get involved in DCEF. The next DCEF meeting will be at the Charlton Public Library.

8. Items for Next Meeting:

- Budget Information Session
- Further Discussion of first academic goal
- Updates about anything going on with the school

9. Next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

10. The December 9, 2021 meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,

Fara Fuhrmann