

MINUTES FROM WHS SCHOOL COUNCIL - APPROVED
DECEMBER 20, 2021

A meeting of the Wayland High School School Council was held remotely at 6:00 p.m. on December 20, 2021.

Present and participating remotely were:

Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)
Win Treese (Community Representative)
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)

Absent were:

Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was conducted remotely due to the COVID-19 health pandemic and according to the revised open meeting law that allows remote participation.

1. Allyson Mizoguchi called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Zachary Mittelsteadt (Student Representative)		X
Madeeha Syeda (Student Representative)		X
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

2. Public Comments

- Stephanie Brandaleone: Concerned about harm that would have occurred on her daughter’s transcript. Impact on others unknown. If an exception is made for one student needs to be made for all students (said that a weighted GPA was calculated for a student athlete).
- Jeff Sklar: Topic came from School Council and went to School Committee. Not taking a position for or against this issue, but thinks it is important to get input from the community.
- Sejal Srinivasan: Is new to HS. Whatever outcome of policy change was, feels important that it was transparent and collaborative. Not familiar with everything that was happening at the HS at the time. She was working on the school start time committee at the time and she was attending School Committee meetings and thinking maybe some people were opposed to it. Could we ask the community for feedback to make sure that this is right.
- Alexia Obar: Wondering if School Council is going to be looking into the comments made by Stephen Cass re: Title IX violations.

3. Approval of minutes: November 17, 2021

- Robin wanted included that she asked meeting to be recorded and that she wants it to be noted that people couldn’t get in
- Allyson stated this was not an intentional omission

Motion to approve with additional statement about recording: Robin Sklar
 Second: Lily Watkins

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

4. Discussion of Student Handbook Revisions

- Allyson provided members with summary of changes to Student Handbook that have been approved by the School Committee (document “Action Steps for 2021 Tiered Focused Monitoring Information for School Councils”).
- Any Council member can follow up with Parry Graham regarding Student Handbook Revisions; Dr. Graham has synthesized changes into five different general categories listed in the Tiered Focus Monitoring document. These are in many cases updated to comply with the changing law.

5. Discussion of abolishment of weighted GPA by School Committee in 2018

- Allyson suggested that we set up a special School Council meeting in which we can invite Marybeth Sacramone to help explain the process for the decision.
- Erin said the best way forward is to inform the community about what went into the process when the decision was made and to get feedback. Inform on continued work that Marybeth has done in this area. Also stay focused on the efforts that the School Council has already been involved in over the past year in regards to the course selection process.
- Robin said that she would like to hear the history and find out what pieces that she is missing but wants to move forward and have a vote on it. She continues to get phone calls from people who are unhappy that there is no weighted GPA. She sees two issues: the stress of class rank/valedictorian, the stress of having multiple GPAs and that students are looked at in the best light possible. Not having weighted GPA is putting students in the honors classes and getting As and Bs at a disadvantage.
- Allyson said the special School Council meeting in January would be to discuss the inclusive nature and research that went into the decision making process in 2018. Purpose would be to dismantle some of the concerns and assumptions around this issue.
- Erin said that a lot of the things that are being talked about and shared are anecdotal and that are not necessarily based in research. We can't say that the decision is impacting any of our students at this stage. We need to stay focused on what the role is of the School Council, which is the approval of the school improvement plan.
- Robin said she doesn't want it to be presented as though it's a done deal from 2018 and would like the information and the ability that if enough of the people want to re-vote on it we will. Concerned about doors being closed.
- Allyson said it is the School Committee that votes on this, not the School Council. We can vote to recommend that to Allyson or that the School Committee do something, but not us who vote.

6. Discussion and possible approval of WHS School Improvement Plan 2021-22

- Allyson explained the purpose of the School Improvement Plan and its tie to district goals, and that the work of School Council is often connected to one or two of these particular goals to help us move forward. Reviewed document, “Wayland High School School Improvement Plan 2021-2022.”

- Two target goals on Elevating Achievement: (1) Identifying struggling students and employing an intervention system called START, and (2) evaluating our course selection process for bias and barriers to increase access to upper-level courses for our Brown and Black students.
- Karen asked a question about the interventions in the START programs.
- Allyson explained that we are very good at identifying struggling students between teachers/parents/guidance/admin-now we will be collecting more data and monitoring the progress of the student in shorter chunks of time once the intervention is in place.
- Karen wondered if there is a document somewhere which outlines what the steps are. . . is there a list somewhere?
- Allyson said that right now the list is still managed by SST (Student Study Team). The role of the School Council is to approve that this is a good priority for the school. Does not envision that we have an active role in the development of this program. START is a two year goal.
- Karen wondered what prompted us to look into this issue.
- Allyson explained that the district is adopting the START model K-12 and said that the HS has always been good at identifying struggling students. This is a more standardized approach, especially after 18 months of change during the pandemic
- Karen observed that this was put in almost pre-emptively.
- Robin asked if SST is going to become the START.
- Allyson explained that the SST will become the CCT(Case Consultation Team). Still ironing out details before this is presented to the faculty in February. The START team will be headed by Aimee Lima and the asst principals as well as any staff members who work with a particular student that the team is tracking.
- Robin asked how students are identified.
- Allyson explained that there is already a lot of information sharing going on between faculty/staff/guidance, preemptive data collection and monitoring of students (attendance, grades, discipline). The START team will also help to identify those students and bring them to our attention.
- With regard to the second target goal on course selection, Allyson noted that we are still thinking about what we learned last year and look forward to looking at the information. Noted that Jill and Win were part of the process last year.
- Allyson asked if there bias/barriers embedded in that process that we need to change; offered brief overview of the goal.
- Allyson noted that the third target goal is tied to the district goal of SEL/Wellness. Described the strategic actions including gathering input from our students, supporting students, and continuing the work of the healthy relationships task force that started its formal work last year.
- Lily noted the significance of these goals and stated her discomfort of advising the Council without ample information.
- Karen echoed Lily's statement. In addition to the information on the process, she wants the exact question that we will be voting on.

- Allyson explained that the Council is being asked to approve the SIP. She will report back to us about how things are going.
- Lily stated that she thinks that they all seem like amazing goals and wanted to know if we are missing anything.
- Karen expressed support.

Motion to approve School Improvement Plan: Lilly Watkins

Second: Mike Hopps

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

- The APPROVED SIP will be posted on the WHS website and sent to Dr. Easy.

7. Selection of dates for School Council Meetings 2021-22

- Allyson asked if Monday evenings at 6 work for everyone in general. Goal is to meet once a month and have special School Council meeting on weighted GPA

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Mike Hopps

Second: Jill Swenson

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Allyson Mizoguchi (School Principal)	X	
Karen Brown (Parent Representative)	X	
Shavon Drayton (Parent Representative)	X	
Erin Gibbons (Parent Representative)	X	
Lilly Watkins (Parent Representative)	X	
Robin Sklar (Community Representative)	X	
Win Treese (Community Representative)	X	
Mike Hopps (Staff Representative)	X	
Jill Swenson (Staff Representative)	X	

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swenson (staff representative)
Allyson Mizoguchi (Principal/co-chair)

Related documents:

Minutes from WHS School Council, 11/17/21 (DRAFT)
“Action Steps for 2021 Tiered Focused Monitoring Information for School Councils”
WHS School Improvement Plan 2021-2022 (DRAFT)