

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Happy Hollow School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: January 27, 2021

TIME OF MEETING: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Happy Hollow School Room 15

3:30 Call to Order - All Present

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Danielle Silverman (parent)	X	
Deb Dowd (staff representative)	X	
Jaclyn Mattson (staff representative)	X	
Meghan Parpos (parent)	X	
Mike Andrews (parent)	X	
Nan Jahnke (community member)	X	
Raishan Cheek (METCO parent)	X	
Tricia O'Reilly (principal)	X	

3:30 1. Public comment /Approval of Minutes from previous meeting - 12/16/21

- No public comment
- 12/16 meeting minutes approved: Meghan moved to approve the 12/16 minutes. Deb seconded. All voted to approve. Tricia commented that we shouldn't bold the text going forward. Let the content stand on its own.

3:35 2. Review/Questions/Important Takeaways from School Council Training on 1/10/22.

- Discussion of how to inform parents of issues we're tackling. We'll put them in the HH Hawk newsletter!
- Question about why the school committee changed the limit to one year. Group sentiment is that one year isn't long enough, impossible to tackle large projects without continuity. Nan is going to follow up with an email to SComm.

3:45 3. Review/Questions regarding new DESE guidance on testing and contact tracing.

- Tricia described the messaging from DESE around the return to school after the new year. Quarantine moved from 10 days to 5 days causing some confusion.
-

- There's an issue with what to do with the "returning isolating students" for their lunch breaks. These are the students who were infected with COVID, but can now return to school. Rachel and Tricia have been supervising these isolating kids in a classroom of their grade level for their lunch break, distanced as far as is possible.
 - Meghan asked if kids had emotional difficulties from eating in isolation with principal supervision. Tricia and staff agreed that the answer was no, thankfully, but they're watching carefully for signs.
 - Jaclyn said her classroom hosted the isolating 5th graders last week. They had 4 kids in the corners of the room. Finished eating in 10 minutes. All kids appeared happy.
- Kids are still testing positive on day 6.
- Meghan asked where they have snack - it's always outside.
- Tricia described the onerous contact tracing workload, and the test + stay program. Most HH students are vaccinated, so test and stay is less effective than anticipated.
- Raishan related his story about his daughter having COVID, and they didn't know for some time, leaving the possibility she may have spread it to others. Seems to be a common occurrence!
- Danielle brought up that some parents are unsure whether to request tests - for example, if their kids already had COVID. Need better messaging to encourage participation.
- Staff and parents agreed that the kids all know who had COVID, and that it's a badge of honor for some.
- Raishan asked if contact tracing is on buses. Answer: No. Group recalls Claypit Hill's outbreak that happened on Bus #1. Contact tracing only covers lunch, breakfast, snack (if indoors), and BASE.
- Meghan asked about pushback against the changes. Answer: not much at all, primarily from families that have immunocompromised people.

3:55 4. Happy Hollow/WPS School Budget follow up and update

- S.Comm moved to accept the budget last night. Fin Comm said they have to cut by ~\$875K.
- Tricia related that the process has been different this year, with the new administration. Normally all the principals and central administration would start in August looking at everything from the whole district.
- Last year, the admin council said 0.5 assistant for Loker and HH was a priority, across all schools.
- Whole budget is ~\$43M.
- Full day Kindergarten is \$500K a year. It always comes off.

Assistant Principal and .2 Guidance

4:00 4. HH Family Handbook - Continued Discussion - Opportunity for Changes, Additions

- Tabled until the next meeting due to time constraints.

4:25 5. Open Discussion / Topics for Next Meeting March 10, 2022

- Meghan asked Tricia to email us if there were any substantive changes regarding the budget.
- Meghan brought up the idea of a survey about the handbook that we could link to from the HH Hawk. Group fielded some potential questions. Meghan is going to put together a survey!

4:30 6. Adjournment

- Meghan moved to adjourn. Mike seconded. All approved.