

MINUTES FROM HH SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

March 15, 2021 (Approved 5/10/21)

A meeting of the Happy Hollow School School Council was held remotely at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 15, 2021.

Present and participating remotely were:

Tricia O'Reilly (School Principal)
Nan Jahnke (Community Representative)
Mike Andrews (Parent Representative)
Meghan Parpos (Parent Representative)
JoAnn Kline (Staff Representative)
Deb Dowd (Staff Representative)

Absent were:

Danielle Silverman (Parent Representative)

Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was recorded on Zoom and available for viewing by request. Please contact principal Tricia O'Reilly to request the recording Tricia_OReilly@waylandps.org. 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. Tricia called the meeting to order and roll call was taken:

ROLL CALL	YES	NO
Tricia O'Reilly (School Principal)	X	
Nan Jahnke (Community Representative)	X	
Danielle Silverman (Parent Representative)		X
Mike Andrews (Parent Representative)	X	
Meghan Parpos(Parent Representative)	X	
JoAnn Kline (Staff Representative)	(joined a minute late)	
Deb Dowd (Staff Representative)	X	

2. Public comment. There was no public comment today.

3. Approval of minutes from 2/8/21 meeting: Tricia had sent the minutes to School Council members via email. Mike Andrews moved to approve the minutes; Meghan Parpos seconded. Tricia did a second roll call to approve the minutes and each member present approved them, with Nan's approval conditional that she did not attend the meeting, but later watched the recording.

4. Tricia presented a follow-up regarding the "Day in the Life" presentation from our last meeting. She offered the project to the 5th grade teachers, including the specialist teachers, as something the older kids might be interested in tackling. The staff are extremely interested in the idea, but won't be able to make it happen in the next few weeks. They're currently hoping to position it to be completed before the end of the year.

5. The group had a brainstorming discussion for keeping the Happy Hollow sense of community alive until the end of the pandemic. All acknowledged that we were limited in many ways, but there is at least a glimmer that perhaps we could do something. Some of the ideas discussed were:

- Meghan brought up the connection and sense of community she has found from the anti-racist groups run by Caroline Han and Rebecca Smoler.
- There's a Facebook group specifically for Kindergarten parents. Perhaps there are other age-centered groups? (Or could be?)
- JoAnn brought up the "spirit week" activities led by the Student Council last spring. There was a week of shared chalk drawings, a "find the hawk" activity, and Happy Hollow trivia.
- Mike asked if we could do something outside. But, so far the group was aware, the gathering limit of 25 people is still in place.
- Nan wondered whether we could creatively use the tents to foster cross-family relationships, keeping the group size down. Any such use of the tents off school hours would have to be coordinated. However, we could organize meetups for various classes on the weekends.

As a next step, Mike will email the PTO president, Melissa Ricci, to see if there's anything we can do to better connect parents socially.

6. Tricia gave an update on the return of K students four days a week, as well as the planning for the grand all-in return in April. Though staff spend significant time wrangling the kids into snowsuits and working through the realities of socially-distant snack eating, all reports are that the Kindergarten students are happy and arrive home exhausted at the end of the day. Some have even fallen asleep in school!

On the plans for bringing all students back in, several points were discussed:

- Enrollment in the pooled testing program is not what we'd like, not yet at 50%.
 - No one easy answer to why. Cost, perhaps, though this is covered for anyone who expressed need. Concern about the brief interval of being unmasked? Concern about the need to quarantine?
 - State will subsidize testing through April vacation. Unknown what will happen after that.
- Without buses, traffic congestion at drop-off and pick-up is a primary concern at this point. Interestingly, there's no report that lists the number of families at the school. However, the enrollment is at about 350 kids.
- As an example of the changes, every other bathroom stall had been closed in support of the 6' distancing requirement. With that lifted, all stalls will be open.
- Continuing the one-way system in the hallway.
- Specialist teachers will travel to the classrooms, in person.
- Snack time on inclement weather days is a concern. Will adopt a "checkerboard" pattern of kids that are unmasked, eating, interspersed with kids that are masked.
- No additional fans or ventilation will be employed - the necessary work was completed back before the hybrid schedule began.

7. Unanticipated topics: Tricia reported that the School Committee may be considering an expanded role for the School Council. One potential task to work on: updating the handbook!

Adjournment: JoAnn Kline moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Andrews seconded.