

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Happy Hollow School Council

FILED BY: Tricia O'Reilly

DATE OF MEETING: December 16, 2021

TIME OF MEETING: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Happy Hollow School Room 15

3:30 Call to Order

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Danielle Silverman (parent)	X (joined after roll call)	
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(s) - 5/10/21 and 11/18/21

- No public comment.
- 11/18/21 minutes: Approved after **amending minutes with roll call**. Mike moved to approve, Meghan seconded. All approved.
- 5/10/21 minutes: What a snapshot of life from Spring 2021! Concern about what was possible for end-of-year traditions with COVID, and how all-in was going. Meghan moved to approve, Nan seconded. All approved.

3:35 2. Updated Approved Happy Hollow School Improvement Plan - Summarize

- We had a brief discussion of the revisions to the school improvement plan since our last meeting. In short, changes only reflect recent alterations to the district improvement plan. All agreed that it looks good.

3:45 3. Happy Hollow School Budget - review budget for 2021-2022 school year with group.

- The group had a lively discussion of how little money there really was at this level. Key points from the discussion:
  - Nearly a quarter of the budget is for instructional technology. Spending a surprising amount on chargers for chromebooks.
  - WPSF is a key source of funding for out-of-budget items. They're willing to fund innovative programs. Tricia described, as an example, the initiative to incorporate ukulele(!) instruction. WPSF was able to fund staff training and the purchase of 25 ukuleles. [n.b., there was no discussion of funding for tulip planting.]
  - Tricia and Deb talked about what a huge boon it's been having the full time Assistant Principal, Rachel. For example, Tricia can be dealing with a COVID case, while Rachel is dealing with a behavioral problem.
  - As part of a discussion about how personnel are not included in this level of budget, noted difficulties in adding any additional personnel.
  - Meghan asked where the COVID relief funds went (ESSER). Tricia knew for sure that HH received 0.2 of a guidance counselor, and 0.5 of the assistant principal from this funding. Unfortunately, it ends this school year. Unless action is taken, HH will drop back to a half-time assistant principal.
  - No clear path forward to retain the full-time assistant principal next year. In the past, the Superintendent requested principals attend school committee meetings to make their cases in person. This hasn't happened yet.
  - Members wondered about how the budget for next year would shake out. There was general uncertainty about how the town would allocate funds, given the uniqueness of the past year.

4:00 4. HH Family Handbook - Impressions, Opportunity for Changes, Create plan for improvement.

- The budget discussion ran long. We only were able to manage a few minutes on the handbook.
- Mike pointed out that ALICE drills were missing from the handbook. (But, aha! Nan found a very brief mention of them on the last page!)
- The group discussed how difficult the drills can be. Tricia remembers the last drill vividly. It was on the morning of March 12, 2020, the day the kids came home with their chromebooks and iPads... for what would turn out to be the rest of the year.
- Drills haven't been done since, so Meghan's own child hasn't participated in one. There may not be a drill this year.
- Tricia sends detailed, thoughtful communication in advance of each drill, as well as a follow up afterwards. As this is a subject of ongoing research, there have been numerous changes over the years. Danielle reported on one year where her child was asked to shelter-in-place, and then the next year, the children were asked to run to a meeting point.
- **The group agreed to add a statement to the handbook, that:**

- describes the purpose of ALICE drills,
- defines the A.L.I.C.E. acronym, and
- notifies parents that they will receive detailed communication in advance of a drill that incorporates changing policies due to the latest research.

4:25 5. Open Discussion / Topics for Next Meeting January 27, 2022

- **Look at changing the April meeting date in anticipation of time conflicts.**

4:30 6. Adjournment

- Mike moved to adjourn, Tricia seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:46PM.