

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Happy Hollow School Council

DATE OF MEETING: February 16, 2023

TIME OF MEETING: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE OF MEETING: Happy Hollow School Conference Room

Present:

Tricia O'Reilly

Lise Weig

Andrea Gellerstein

Rachel Scott

Miriam Morrison

Ryan Rideau (virtually)

Nan Jahnke

Michelle Claussen (virtually)

Prishant Shukla (virtually)

3:00 1. Public comment- no public comment

3:05 2. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2023 meeting

- Lise makes a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Rachel seconds. All in favor.

3:10: Tricia opens discussion on the family handbook, asking if anyone compared to other towns.

Ryan asked colleague about Melrose handbook; colleague didn't know handbooks existed.

Michelle spoke to a friend in New Jersey, where they print it out and give it to your families.

Another friend told her they hand it out when students re enroll at the beginning of the year.

Prishant spoke about the importance of the Table of Contents. What are the high priority things that we want to convey? Andrea found the one for her own children's school in Framingham; each of the nine schools have the same handbook. Lise found the photos helpful in one of the examples. Highlight most important sections and more user friendly. Google translate at the top of the handbook. Nan suggested including bits in the weekly newsletter.

3:15 3. Curriculum Updates

Tricia opened up the conversation about all the new curriculum the district is piloting. Good to also know because it's budget season and these are big investments.

- We're currently piloting three Math programs.
- Implementing new writing program, called Empowering Writers. Number of teachers volunteered to pilot at the beginning of the year.
- Curriculum is like a living plant; must feed it and tend to it, with professional development.
- All math programs will have a Spanish component.
- Figuring out which program is the best for us.

- Lise talked about her own experience implementing Empowering Writers in the 1st grade classroom. Building a foundation. Very strong connection between reading and writing. Students are using very advanced language with the program. Concerned in the beginning that there wasn't enough writing but impressed with the amount of writing her students are doing now.
- Miriam spoke about the Empowering Writers for 2nd graders. Vocabulary is really advanced. A lot of reading but has really paid off with 5 paragraph essays. Still on informative and have two more genres to go.
- Will be exciting to start the next year with this program. Students will be a bit more familiar with the language. Hard to find minutes in the day to fit it all in. Writing suffered the most during the pandemic.
- Andrea spoke about the math program selection. Narrowing it down to three programs that match their large set of criteria. Three programs are i-Ready, Illustrative Math, and Bridges. Each program is very different, but some similar components. Positives and negatives to all programs. Different teachers are piloting each of them.
- Michelle asked about work students could do from home? Tricia discussed i-Ready and ST math.
- Empowering writers is already written into school budget. Math program was put into capital budget.

#### 3:45: 4: Open Discussion/Questions

- Discussion about afterschool programming being brought up to School Committee.
- Tricia will finish the school year out.

#### 4:00: 5: Adjournment