

SIT Minutes 10/19/2020

Participants:

Caleb Grant, Christina D'Agostino, Giuseppe Gencarelli, Lela Smith, Donna Sunderland, Mary Ann Mello, Emily Lynch, Lauren Coggeshall. Endawnis Spears and Chelsea Baker joined for parts of the meeting.

I. Call to order

4:02 by Lela Smith

II. Recognition

The SIT recognized the nomination of Mrs. Jeanine Mankoff and Mrs. Tricia Abbott for the national Life Changer of the Year Award. We will find out at the end of the year whether either of these two deserving teachers win.

III. Public Forum

No items.

IV. Business

a. Updates on Reopening Plan:

The reopening plan is going well overall.

The biggest anticipated issues revolve around using the stairs to Locustville Road for pm bus dismissal during winter weather. Ensuring the safety of the students will require shoveling, sanding, and salting, and the town of Hopkinton DPW is unable to take on this task. There was general discussion of options such as using parent volunteers, requiring all students to bring winter boots and snow gear, and/or changing the location where students board the bus.

This item was tabled for now. Mr. G will reach out to the custodians' union about assigning this duty to the custodial team.

There are still some kinks in the delivery and distribution of school lunches to the classrooms. Teachers are working to simplify and speed up the process.

b. Budget Overview:

Donna gave a report on the timeline and status of the school budget. She is currently waiting on staff to submit for items over and above their supplies lists.

There was discussion of making a Hawk sculpture out of recycled materials to be placed outside the school. This idea had been suggested last year, and Mr. G will follow up with Mrs. DiFranco and the Chariho Career and Technical Center.

c. Anti-Racism Task Force update:

Endawnis was not able to attend the full meeting and give a report.

d. Review of Hope Valley Vision 2023:

Mr. G reviewed the six priority areas. The SIT discussed where to focus the school's efforts based on which action steps have been completed and which have not. There was general consensus that the school should continue its work on all the priority areas but that there should be a focus on math and connected to the school's specialty of technology and the arts.

The SIT discussed the possibility of an after-school program (which could run into staffing issues).

The SIT also discussed incorporating a math-focused arts/technology program into the regular school day. This would require shifting to a condensed schedule for the start of the day (similar to early release day) and having the whole school participate in the program in the final period before dismissal.

Discussion tabled for now.

V. Consent Agenda Items

a. Minutes

Motion was made by Caleb Grant to pass the 10/5/2020 minutes, seconded by Mary Ann Mello. The motion passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

b. Budget

SIT discussed school staffing needs. The SIT supported Mr. G submitting for an additional full-time special education TA based on the increase in IEP needs. SIT also supported submitting for an additional full-time school psychologist based on the increased social emotional needs of the students and submitting for extending the hours of one part-time TA. Mr. G discussed sharing a full-time health/PE teacher with Ashaway School, which the SIT supports as it would allow the School Nurse to focus on clinical needs.

For Capital Gains budget items, the SIT identified installing a generator, updating the school's electrical system, possible needs for a boiler upgrade, greatly expanding parking along Locustville road, and adding a direct water line to the school's garden plot and/or constructing a greenhouse.

VI. Reports

a. Principal's Report

Mr. G reported that the school's covid plan is currently running well, but that the school is awaiting any change in directives from the state as the state monitors an increase in covid cases.

b. Coming events

-Friday 10/30/2020 will be school black-and-orange day in honor of Halloween.

-School picture day is 11/5/20

VII. SIT Requests for future agenda items

Mr. G requested that reports from the Anti-Racism Task Force be kept on the agenda so that Endawnis can present to the SIT at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Principal Gencarelli at 4:54 to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lauren Coggeshall. The motion passed unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 11/1/2021