

## **Center School Council Meeting Minutes November 17, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**Present:** Jane DeGrenier, Principal; John Galluzzo, Parent; Laura Louko, Parent; April Sheridan, Parent; Elizabeth Wilcox, Parent; Courtney Folsom, Teacher Representative; Mark Lancaster, Teacher Representative; Lori McKenna, Teacher Representative; Peggy Linn, Teacher Representative; Russ Wilson, Assistant Principal, Ex-officio.

Principal DeGrenier called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

### **Minutes**

Principal DeGrenier called for a review of the minutes of June 17, 2020. Ms. Louko moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Ms. Sheridan; voted unanimously. Principal DeGrenier called for a review of the minutes of October 21, 2020; Ms. Louko moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Ms. Sheridan; voted unanimously.

### **Open Comment**

Ms. McKenna commented that among the firsts this year was a “socially-distanced” class picture. Individual photos had gone out. Mr. Galluzzo stated that he felt that parent-teacher conferences had gone well, and that the ten minute format did not feel rushed. Ms. Wilcox also said she felt it went well.

### **Re-entry Committee Update**

Mr. Wilson re-capped the recent meeting of the Re-entry committee and the pre-history of the committee. Mr. Galluzzo, a member of that committee, stated that the focuses included health and safety as well as the hybrid education model. Principal DeGrenier added that the committee had discussed social-emotional issues. She also stated that she hoped the school would never have to return to the old style of pickup and drop-off, as the new system was working so well. Mr. Wilson stated that topics covered also included student recognition, student support, professional learning and lunch (including music at lunch). Mr. Galluzzo said that it felt like the school had settled into a routine and was doing well.

### **Dashboard**

Principal DeGrenier stated that the district’s COVID-19 dashboard was being updated daily, and that the schools would not be sending out COVID-19-specific alerts and reminders any time a student or another member of the school family tested positive; the data is available on the website at all times. Ms. Sheridan felt that it was too much to send an update every time an individual tested positive, as word travels quickly in a small town like Hanover. Ms. Wilcox agreed that the dashboard seemed appropriate. Ms. Louko agreed. Principal DeGrenier asked whether or not the teachers feel safe. Mr. Lancaster said he absolutely does and that the nurses should be commended. Ms. Folsom felt the same way. Mr. Galluzzo commented about a friend in another town who received more than one message per day and was stressed. Principal DeGrenier said that she felt people would get complacent with repetitive messages. Ms. Linn said she has a high schooler who checks the dashboard daily and that it helps bring a little bit of control. She had also never heard a student say “I don’t feel safe,” which she figures is a good thing.

### **Hybrid Education Assessment Period**

Principal DeGrenier said that the school district and the teachers were undergoing an assessment of the hybrid education program currently in use. Ms. Sheridan asked whether or not parents would be

surveyed. Principal DeGrenier stated that she is not aware of any pending formal survey, that the school committee and teachers' union are working on the assessment. She asked the question "how do we get back to fully in-person learning?" Ms. Wilcox asked if that was the stated goal of the schools, or if the question was "where are we now and should we make the move to fully in-person?" Principal DeGrenier said it was the latter. Ms. Louko asked whether or not the plan to return to fully in-person was to start young and move up through the grades, as other school districts have suggested. Principal DeGrenier said she had heard about such strategies. In general, she said, the question is since there is no spread in schools right now, should we bring more students back? Ms. Louko said that in her opinion it would be counterproductive to bring older students back first, especially during or after the holiday season, as high school kids will be visiting with college friends during the break. Mr. Galluzzo commented that if a younger student in a family had to return earlier than an older student, it could cause stress in households. Ms. Folsom said that hybrid learning had been one transition; returning to fully in-person learning could be another transition that could be disrupted by a fully remote order if the pandemic gets worse, leading to a third transition for students. Ms. Louko asked whether or not the schools would go to three-foot distancing or if there would still be room for six-foot distancing. Principal DeGrenier said that nothing had been decided upon yet and that science would rule every discussion.

Principal DeGrenier asked whether or not there was news from others school districts about returning to fully in-person learning. Ms. Louko said that Middleboro would be discussing the subject in early January, specifically allowing students who had chosen to be fully remote returning to in-person learning. Ms. Folsom stated that Whitman-Hanson was discussing the topic after the holidays. Ms. Wilcox said it was the same in Hingham. Ms. Sheridan commented that by the time the topic was discussed and put in place in a month or two, with the school year closing down, would it be worth it? Mr. Galluzzo stated that the bus routes alone would be a logistical nightmare. Principal DeGrenier stated that the state had yet to make any changes to the number of students allowed on buses. Ms. Linn said that nothing replaces in-person learning, but that she felt there was a silver lining, that students confidence levels had gone up, that students are more willing now more than ever to raise their hands and participate, that there was more one-on-one interaction between students and teachers, that in general students were feeling good about themselves. Ms. Louko said that her third grader was "blooming." Mr. Lancaster said that he has students asking to stay on Zooms to ask questions, and that he has been very impressed by those who have.

Principal DeGrenier said that it would be a good time to attend school committee meetings.

### **New Business**

Ms. Louko asked whether or not the curriculum was on pace. Principal DeGrenier asked the teachers to offer their opinions. Ms. McKenna said that yes, second grade has identified students who need support in math and reading and that they have the resources they need to remain on pace. Mr. Lancaster said that yes, fourth grade was on pace, and had access to videos that can help students with reading. Ms. Folsom said that yes, third grade was moving along at pace, identifying gaps and bridging them.

Mr. Galluzzo announced that Maura Donahue, third grade teacher, had joined the board of the Hanover Historical Society and would be helping with education program design. He also announced that the South Shore Natural Science Center had completed its first major hybrid STEM education program, with the Hingham schools, and that it could be made available to Center School if needed.

Principal DeGrenier said that Thanksgiving festivities would include lunchtime Bingo with Mr. Wilson and the "Drumstick Dash," an outdoor version of the Turkey Trot over a half-mile course.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Council will be December 15 at 3 p.m. and topics would include a brief update on iReady, a budget update and more.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.