

**Center School Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020 – Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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

Mr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Open Comment

Ms. Louko asked whether or not the Sarah Ward recording would be available to all, as she heard it was excellent. Mr. Wilson said he was inquiring as it would be an excellent professional development program for teachers.

Ms. Louko asked a question on how much “pushing” a parent should be doing with kids and their schoolwork. She asked about protocols for requesting information from teachers, etc. Mr. Wilson said that in general we don’t want children in tears over school assignments, and that there may simply be a buildup of “COVID fatigue” generated from any number of sources leading to emotional breakdowns for kids. He said it’s ok for kids to take mental health breaks as needed. If it becomes more of the norm, then it becomes more of an issue. But teachers do need assessment points. Ms. Louko stated that she felt that many kids don’t understand that we are all going through the same issues. Mr. Wilson agreed with that statement. Ms. Louko said that she was hearing from other parents that many kids are simply “done with it all.” Mr. Wilson said that hopefully second graders would begin returning to school on January 4th, as long as conditions remained safe, and that that may start to bring more peace of mind and normalcy. Principal DeGrenier said that there has been an uptick in COVID fatigue since Thanksgiving, and she stressed that parents should feel free to communicate with teachers about such issues.

iReady

Mr. Wilson stated that iReady scores provide fall benchmarks allowing for progress monitoring in reading and math. Teachers are watching for signs of regression. Ms. Sheridan said she was watching the iReady process happen remotely. Mr. Wilson said the school is laser-focused on any needed interventions due to remote learning, and that the first data should come through the following week.

Return to in-person learning

Principal DeGrenier stated that the current plan would bring second graders back to the building on January 4, and that the school had been planning for and working on that event happening. The recommendation has been for “maximum distancing possible” for in-class seating. At the moment, grades 3 and 4 would remain hybrid. All other safety protocols remain in place. The School Committee was looking to get all kids back to in-person learning as soon as possible, but no further details are available at this time. Ms. Sheridan asked if the schedule would remain 4 days or return to 5. Principal DeGrenier said that as the intensive cleaning schedule remains Wednesdays and Saturdays, that the schedule would probably remain as it is, with 4 in-person days. Ms. Folsom said that some parents have reached out on remote plans, and said that teachers can definitely find ways to make things less stressful on families.

Budget

Principal DeGrenier said that there have been general projections, but no district budget meetings yet. They should start just after the turn of the year.

Dashboard

Principal DeGrenier said that it is important to remain up-to-date on the graphs in the COVID dashboard. There has definitely been an uptick in Hanover, but no spreading in the schools. Ms. Louko asked about the week before Christmas. She stated that some local districts would not be sending kids in-person on Monday and Tuesday of that week. Principal DeGrenier said she believed those were communities that seem to have COVID spreading within the schools.

Minutes

Principal DeGrenier called for a review of the minutes of November 17, 2020. Ms. Louko moved to accept the minutes; seconded by M. Lancaster; voted unanimously.

New Business

Ms. Sheridan asked whether or not students would have the choice to attend Virtual Academy rather than attend fully in-person should the call go out for a full return to school. Principal DeGrenier said details were still being discussed.

Ms. Sheridan said that she had attended the PTA meeting and was very appreciative as a parent of all of the good things happening in the school. She thanked the staff for all they do.

Principal DeGrenier said that holiday and winter festivities would include Virtual Bingo and a Winter Fun Day (no Snow Bowl this year).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council will be January 26 at 3 p.m. and topics will include a review of the minutes, open comment, the return of Grade 2, the budget, more students returning to in-person learning and more.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.