

## Hanlon School

Site Council

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

3:15-4:15

Principal's Office

### Members

Sarah Cronin, Principal	Present	Jen Atkins, Parent	
Beth Kelly, Kindergarten teacher		Jason Hatcher, Parent	Present
Valerie Sharpe, Grade 1 teacher	Present	Rachel Shanshiry, Parent	Present
Katie Velluti, Grade 5 teacher	Present	Mandy Taft, Parent	Present
Brad Pindell, Community Representative		Laura Cavanaugh, Grade 1 teacher	
Present			
Mark Goguen	Present		
Steve Ouellette	Present		

### Agenda

1. Update from Inclusive School Committee- Sarah
  - a. Student Experiences so far
  - b. Student Experiences upcoming
  - c. Thinking ahead to next year

-Every child completed an inclusive strip "I feel included when"—Aligned with Olympic colors  
-Laura and others created an "inclusive book list" posted to Hanlon school website on Principal Post.

-Going to have a common text for the whole school- "The Invisible Boy" Every classroom will receive a copy

-Next week will begin one of several Mix It Up At Lunch days. Teachers paired students with others who they don't normally sit next to. They will be given conversation starters to get to know each other. Want to help kids break out of their comfort zones. Teachers have the option of doing this at snack time as well.

1. Update from Parent Inclusion Seed Group- Mandy

Created out of interest from Hanlon Site Council parents and community action group (not necessarily a Hanlon Site Council initiative/document).

Goals:

1-inclusive school environment, welcoming all students

2-Educating students about diversity and interacting with others, understanding, discussing differences

Three things to consider:

1. Relevant in-school curriculum and classroom engagement

2. Inclusive school environment with common norms, language, guidelines  
3. At-home engagement and support—at minimum parents would be aware of school's norms and expectations; ideally parents are supportive; potential for parents to engage more deeply

- Need to get some parents to take leads
- Common norms/language –need parent and teacher input
- Need to layout priorities and actions for parents

- Suggestions/Thoughts
- Specifics about common language and norms are helpful-to ease concerns/answer lingering questions
- How to respond to parental concerns or disagreement within school community around norms/language implemented
- Emphasize respecting all students and the rights that each has to be included and represented
- Pace

-Principals got together to outline professional development plan for next school year short Wednesdays.

Three focuses for professional development next year:

- Science (elementary and middle)
- Safe schools (all levels of school)
- Social and emotional learning (primarily elementary)

3. Discussion of [Guiding Principles for Instructional Technology](#): Steve Ouellette and Mark Coguen

Instructional handbook was distributed in Site Council meeting and feedback was solicited.

Goals-first 8 pages

Looking at how technology can support our curriculum

### **5 goals**

1. Engaging and empowering learning experiences
2. Provide meaningful/relevant prof. dev
3. Participating responsibly in the digital world
4. Partnering with families and community
5. Providing reliable, high quality resources

-Lynette Owens—hope to have her talk annually about social media usage

-Questions raised around safe internet use for children

-Sarah and Mark discussed including a blurb on principal's post about keeping kids safe on the internet.

-Mrs. Silverstein and Westwood library offer resources for safe search engines.

4. Update from Parent Outreach/ Ambassador Program- Sarah—  
**Did not have time to cover remaining topics.**

1. Update on Room Parent 101 Document Sarah (on behalf of Jen)

1. Open Discussion

### **Purpose of Site Council**

The School Site Council was first formed in 1993 in accordance with M.G.L. ch.71 §59C. It is a representative, school-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, and community members. The law outlines four major areas of responsibility for councils. School councils assist principals in: Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards, identifying the educational needs of students attending the school, reviewing the annual school building budget, and discussing a school improvement plan.

### **Norms (adopted in 2014)**

- Assume best intentions: We're all here for the good of the students and to make Hanlon a great place to learn
- Value diverse points of view: Gently push back when questions arise. A variety of opinions makes us a stronger group.
- Co-chairs will limit time for each topic
- Be professional
- Maintain positive and productive communication with the school community
- Respect confidentiality of students, families, and staff during all discussions

### **The Mission of Hanlon School**

Welcome to the Paul R. Hanlon School, an elementary school that educates students from kindergarten through fifth grade. In our nurturing environment, children learn with teachers and staff members who celebrate and honor the similarities and differences of individuals while providing challenging learning experiences that facilitate each child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Whether students are learning to read, to solve math problems, or to advocate for themselves or someone else, they will experience success, disappointment, and many events in between. At Hanlon we encourage all children and help them use their mistakes as learning experiences that will build their character and resiliency.

School life at Hanlon is inspired by our core values, beliefs that were identified several years ago by the adults and children in our school community. Our core values continue to guide how the Hanlon community learns, works, and plays together.

#### **THE HANLON SCHOOL'S CORE VALUES**

Achieve academic success in a safe and nurturing environment

Develop knowledge and understanding through exploration and discovery

Demonstrate effort, pride, respect and responsibility