

**Hanlon School**  
Site Council  
Monday, March 26, 2018  
3:15-4:15  
Principal's Office

**Members**

Sarah Cronin, Principal	Chris Causey, Parent
Jason Hatcher, Parent	Mandy Taft-Pearman, Parent
Barbara Silverstein, Library Teacher/Coordinator Rep.	Brad Pindell, Community
Kelly Fitzgerald, Special Educator	
Christina Martin, Parent	

*Not in Attendance:*

Rosie Patterson, Kindergarten teacher  
Laura Cavanagh, Grade 1 teacher

**Agenda**

1. Review and Approve [minutes](#) from the January meeting
  - Minutes Approved
  
2. Community Building Project- Christina Martin
  - **Forum for Westwood Families:** Rescheduled due to snow: 9AM on Thursday, April 12th at the Senior Center and Thursday, April 12th at 7pm at Sheehan Elementary School. The hope is to bring a strong attendance to the Forum. We want residents to bring their questions.
  - Site Council discussed several questions about the Feasibility Study: Overall, it seems like parents do not want a “mega school” vision for the elementary schools
  - This Council will encourage friends and neighbors to get informed, attend meetings, and visit the [district's web page](#) about the potential building project to learn more.
  
3. One School, One Read 2018-2019
  - a. Debrief this year
    - i. **The Invisible Boy: Nov-Dec**
      1. Greater attendance from parents for the book discussion
      2. Better promoted in the parent community
        - a. We had identified it the previous year
      3. Good feedback from parents in attendance

- a. They reported positively about the conversations, partnering with school staff, and about getting help from other parents about navigating tricky conversations with their kids

- ii. Stitchin and Pullin- February

- 1. Lower attendance from parents at discussion group
  - a. Planning felt more rushed, less promotion/ advertisement
- 2. Night events can be tricky for some families
- 3. Parents who did attend the discussion group felt that the conversation was rich and meaningful

- b. **Ideas for next year**

- i. Keep the core idea (common book, parent discussion)
- ii. Keep the inclusion theme at the forefront (celebrate and appreciate as opposed to tolerate)
- iii. Identify the books in advance (connect one to Inclusive Schools Week)
  - 1. Promote it further (preview a game plan earlier in the year)
- iv. Give parents more guidance
  - 1. Dinner mat, conversation cards that can be sent home to give parents talking points, question prompts during the month (Have you ever been in a moment when your child asks a question and you don't know how to respond?)

- 4. **Group Brainstorm Session: International Night/Culture Fair- Spring 2019**

- a. **Goals-** still being shaped, but this would be a night to celebrate the many varied cultural backgrounds of Hanlon families
- b. **Vision-** families would set up tables/booths to showcase things unique to their country of origin (flag, music, art, food, games, language, etc.); interactive components for attendees to 'travel around the world'
- c. **Planning Steps-** host a brainstorming/planning session for interested families this spring to get ideas and further shape the goals and vision of what this fair could be

**Next Meeting:** May 14th

### **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 2017-2018)

- 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. A variety of opinions makes us a stronger group.
- Limit time for each topic
- Maintain positive and productive communication with the school community
- Given that meetings are public, maintain confidentiality of students, families, and staff during all discussions
- Decision Making- The group will advise the principal on decisions and acknowledges this advisory role
- Use a "parking lot" for ideas that fall outside of the agenda.

### 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