

Hanlon School

Site Council

Monday, November 13, 2017

3:15-4:15

Principal's Office

Members

In Attendance:

Sarah Cronin, Principal

Rosie Patterson, Kindergarten teacher

Laura Cavanagh, Grade 1 teacher

Barbara Silverstein, Library Teacher/Coordinator

Kelly Fitzgerald, Special Educator

Chris Causey, Parent

Jason Hatcher, Parent

Christina Martin, Parent

Mandy Taft, Parent

Not in Attendance:

Brad Pindell, Community Representative

Agenda

1. Review and Approve [minutes](#) from the October meeting

- Minutes approved

2. Norms

- The group looked at the Norms from 2014, and a sampling of Norms from the National Staff Development Council's Tools for Schools.
- The group agreed to keep: "We're all here for the good of the students and to make Hanlon a great place to learn"
- Discussion centered around:
 - Value diverse points of view
 - How to best push each other's thinking?
 - Is there confidentiality in a public meeting?
 - Respect for the varied representative roles held by each member
- The group decided to have Sarah summarize the Norms for this year and revisit them at our next meeting

Norms Summary

- 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--How do we make decision? Do we make decisions?
- Use a “parking lot” for ideas that fall outside of the agenda.

3. Review School Improvement Plan

- Council reviewed the improvement plan
- Discussion of how these goals align with the district goals.
- Social Emotional Learning: parent night is being planned; PD for staff
- Danielle Murray of Safe Schools: training the administrative team
- Discussed ways in which parents can receive support outside the realm of the school district, specifically through Interface Referral

4. WEB Committee Update

- WEB stands for Where Everyone Belongs
- Goal 3 of the School Improvement Plan aligns with this update
- Hanlon parents and Elementary Library Coordinator (Ms. Silverstein) compiled a list of books with diverse protagonists and themes. Lists incorporated into Book Fair selection and available to Community Readers during Inclusive Schools Week
- National Inclusive Week will be December 4-8: stickers and certificates for kids will be provided, events will occur during the week, and the “One School, One Story” book will be The Invisible Boy by Tracy Ludwig. Classroom conversations should be intentional about including all students regardless of gender or race.

5. Preview SEL panel: are there questions/topics that parents are interested in?

- “Homework” for the council to think about

6. Open Discussion

- Parents are interested in the Inclusive School week, and would like to have the opportunity to be more involved at Hanlon with this

Next Meeting: Monday, January 29, 2018

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