

Hanlon School
Site Council
Thursday, March 2, 2017
3:15-4:15
Principal's Office

Members

Sarah Cronin, Principal	Present	Jen Atkins, Parent	Present
Beth Kelly, Kindergarten teacher	Present	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 Cavanagh, Grade 1 teacher	Present

Agenda

1. Updates:
 - a. Any news for the good of the group?
 - b. Where we left off
 - i. Eshu coming in April
 - ii. Diversity Goal: Develop and support practices that acknowledge the diverse backgrounds, identities, strengths and challenges of students

1. Inclusive School Committee

Inclusive School Committee: Laura Cavanagh—Discussed progress of group—2 meetings.

Our role is to develop foundation to be able to help children express thoughts, share ideas, etc.

1. Book selections to be read aloud in each classroom –books focus on inclusion.
2. Open Circle activity –discussion around prompt “I feel included when.”...then turned into paper chain, linking classes and whole school.
3. Mixing up groups of students at snack and or lunch periodically during the school year.

Beth Kelly suggested guest speakers, PTO involvement.

Jason Hatcher discussed model of parent diversity committee that could include guest speakers and reading/discussing books on diversity issues. Potentially monthly meetings.

-suggested also that articles, news pieces, etc. could be used to generate discussion at these meetings.

-Suggested to connect with PTO to coordinate Parent Diversity group.

1. Proposing an idea: Parent Outreach Group

- Current parents reaching out to new families to introduce to Hanlon community.
- Database (spreadsheet) of parents with children's genders/ages/grades that would be willing to connect to new families.
- Sarah Cronin will ask PTO about creating Parent Ambassador survey, possibly having leader for each grade level

1. Update on Room Parent Document

Jen Atkins wrote a Room Parent 101 document draft, will share with Sarah Cronin.

Document outlines roles of Room Parents and emphasizes that working parents can be Room Parents (can coordinate outside school time and recruit parents to attend parties).

Sarah suggested that teachers could individualize Room Parent document by grade level.

1. Open Discussion

Asked about Superintendent search—Being selected in April, highly qualified pool of candidates, some competition in nearby towns, who are also looking to select Superintendents.

Tony Mullen –School Committee representative, can answer questions regarding this selection process.

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