

WHS Site Council Minutes
November 18, 2020
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Zoom Meeting

Attendees: Joel Giacobozzi (Principal), Laura Alderson Rotondo (CTE Coordinator), Kacie Kirkpatrick (Teacher), Sasha Kiani (Parent), Elizabeth Yusem (Parent), Joanna Honig (Teacher), Stephanie Veni (Parent)

Agenda for today:

1. Welcome and Announcements
2. Review Last Year's Work
3. Review of Hybrid Reentry
4. Schedule Update
5. Future Agenda Items

Kacie reminded us that the school's first online play "The Crucible" will be streamed on the school website.

Attendees introduced themselves and listed one thing they were looking forward to this year.

The last WHs Site Council meeting was held on February 25, 2020, a few weeks before the COVID-19 shutdown.

Need to review minutes and do the School Improvement Plan this year.

Stephanie is co-chair with Joel.

Joel says that Smores are dense and that he will rely on the parents in this group to help get messages out to families. He wants to hear from the parents in this group about things he should know or be aware of in the community.

High School Site Councils are governed by Mass General Law.

Lily Read from the School Committee will be joining in the future.

Some initial questions/comments from the group:

- How can this group be of help to the school community?
- How should school admin communicate (vehicle) tactics and methods? Volume is large.
- It took 6 hours to put together a COVID-19 testing plan.
- What is our goal for next year?
- Can we get a student in this group?

Sharnam Begum and David Manoukian are the student representatives to the School Committee.

We are switching items 3 & 4 on the agenda.

In terms of the Schedule Update, two parent talks were held. The second one was attended by 67 students and the Chair of the School Committee (who has a child at the school). There were also 2 other student focus groups. The next one is Monday 11/23 at 3:05 pm. The feedback so far from students has been good.

Some questions/comments:

- Is there a variety of students in the focus groups? 9-12 is represented.
- Class Failures are up 3X.
- Student of one member likes the new schedule because there is less asynchronous time.
- What is the purpose of the 20 minute Friday classes?

Hybrid Reentry:

Dec. 2 is first day of hybrid (cohort A).

Nov. 30 is a COVID-19 testing day for students and any staff who traveled over the holiday.

Dec. 1 for results.

Some questions/comments:

- One member stated she would prefer the testing to not be optional. Wonders if the wording can be changed to be more firm/encouraging?
- One member mentions that some districts have families sign behavior contracts.
- This is a community effort.
- The only acceptable test is the PCR. We will be going to pool testing.
- PCR is the most effective. The rapid test is only 60% effective. The take home test is not as effective.

The Hybrid Protocols draft version was shared.

We will continue to follow the remote schedule on Monday 11/30 and Tuesday 12/1.

Joel and Stephanie will put together an agenda before the next meeting, which is on 12/16/2020.

A student support assembly was held last week for the 9th graders. Topics included: grades, transcripts, supports available...

One member states that freshman really need support.

More transparency of grades is needed.

The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.