

CLAYPIT * HILL * ELEMENTARY * SCHOOL
WAYLAND * PUBLIC * SCHOOLS

40 Adams Road
Wayland, MA 01778
508.358.3851

Claypit Hill School Council Meeting

****all agendas and notes will be posted in this document****

Meeting Dates

- Thursday, September 28th, 1:00-2:00pm
- Tuesday, December 19th, 12:00-1:00pm
- Tuesday, January 30, 10:00-11:00am
- Wednesday, April 24, 11:00-12:00pm

Members

Members

Emily Charton, Principal
Lynette Biggs, 2nd grade teacher
Michele Fiske, 4th grade teacher
Glenn Davis, K, 2nd, and 4th grade parent
Susanne Geiger, community member
Talia Hyatt, 1st grade parent
Larina Mehta, 2nd and 5th grade parent
Katie Riffle, 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade parent
Miriam Conaway, reading specialist

Responsibilities of the School Council

As outlined in the Education Reform Act of 1993, the School Council is comprised of representatives from the parent body, the school staff, and the community at large. Elections are held to ensure that all parents and staff have a full opportunity for representation. The council has specific responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, examining the following topics:

- Class size and impact on student achievement
- School budget
- School climate, safety and discipline

→ Enhancement of parental involvement

Agenda April 24, 2024

Present: Emily Charton, Lynette Biggs, Michele Fiske, Miriam Conaway, Glenn Davis, Susanne Geiger

Area of Focus

- District Wide Discrimination Policy
- SEL Next Steps
- Staffing and Hiring for Next Year

Public Comment

→ No public comments

Meeting Notes: Area of Focus:

- **District Wide Discrimination Policy**
 - Boston resident families had feedback on p. 4 about the Investigative Process, wanted to add METCO liasons and/or DEB Director,
 - If the classroom teacher was not involved with the incident, does the classroom teacher need to be consulted as well? Investigator sharing as needed
 - In Part 3: Findings and Resolution - add checklist of all the personnel who need to be informed: specialists, sped liaison if applicable
 - Discussion of Pupil Information Exchange
 - "Notify relevant community members"--who are the community members?
 - Boston resident families wondered why there aren't outside investigator?
 - Can we use an internal investigator like an asst. Superintendent instead of in-house principal
 - P. 7, #9: District appeal process--families can appeal a principal's decision to the superintendent
 - Who assigns the investigator?---if it's a student or a staff member, the investigator will be principal or asst principal
 - Should be common practice for a principal to say: "Am I the best person to do this?"
 - Feedback from Elementary Principals was that the document seems a little high schoolish, would like more developmentally appropriate language
 - If a complaint is of a discriminatory nature, principal needs to use the plain, difficult language

- The act is racist, is the intent racist if a second grader wrote it? Sometimes kids try things out
- There is no mention of training in this document. That should be included.
- Using the same language
- What does the term “non-student” mean? Community member, a parent
- Writing a racist thing on a bathroom wall vs. making a racist comment to a person
- Peer mediation program at HS expanding to MS, and that should be addressed in this document. Do students really have a “choice” about entering Peer mediation
- All schools are looking at this document for their School Councils, Superintendent will receive feedback, share it with School Committee

- **SEL Next Steps**

- District wide SEL Committee has begun to meet
- CH will have a program we are piloting
- Other schools are piloting different programs
- The year after next, there should be a district wide program or at least common language

- **Staffing and Hiring for Next Year**

- Marie is head of the hiring committee for Asst Principal, received lots of resumes
- No parents on committee for the first round
- There will be a semi-finalist round
- Also hiring school psychologists for next year
- The new Educational Team Leader – an offer has been extended, waiting to see if she accepts
- Eileen McManus will be at HH next year
- Mike Hehir’s replacement will be .5 at CH and .5 at HS, and the only responsibility will be testing here
- Sue Li will do social pragmatics
- Hopefully there will be an intern for school psychologist again because it’s helpful

- **Class Placement**

- 61 letters from parents making requests about class placements
- Constraints are difficult in the grouping process

- **Kindergarten Numbers**

- Very, very low this year across the district. May impact class sections.

- Question about buffer zones—are they wrong? Should we do redistricting? The buffer zones have been in place for 11 years, maybe that's too long
- Class size and impact on student achievement is one of the charges of the School Council
- School Committee limits classes at 25
- K teachers know numbers are low, but they don't know specifics

Next Steps

We will have one more meeting this year.

Agenda January 30, 2024

Area of Focus

- Title 1 Funding and Communications
- Principal Lunch Zooms
- SEL Continued

Public Comment

→ No public comments

Meeting Notes: Area of Focus:

- **Title 1 Funding and Communications:**
 - Betsy Gavron worked on this grant, has funded summer programs in the past,
 - Title 1 funds this year are being used for a Literacy Tutor in first, second, and one group in third grade
 - Council is looking at the Title 1 - Caregiver Compact document Federal Grant Monitoring for WPS
 - Principal looking for input in **parental involvement opportunities**. The compact states that the school must provide after school enrichment, Literacy and Math family activities, summer programs, newsletters, websites, etc
 - Principal asked parents at meeting if their child had homework
 - Lynette Biggs, second grade teacher, explained that the second grade homework is consistent across classes.
 - 6D: Provide translation at meetings - Principal feels we need to improve in this area, our school is now educating a fair number of new students who are English language learners

- **Caregiver Responsibilities:** Are these fair? Are these what we expect from parents and caregivers?
- Council feels all of these items is just good school practice, this is what a partnership between school and families look like
- **Student Responsibilities:** students have a major role in this too
- Council approves these documents

- **Principal Lunch Zooms**

- Lunch zooms focus on SEL
- First lunch zoom was for kindergarten, 11 caregivers joined, mostly Principal presenting, only a few comments
- Principal explained the process for the kindergarten caregiver talk: She met with the grade level team in a PLC to ask for their input for the meeting, teachers wanted Principal to inform caregivers about snow gear, helping their child in being more independent with snow gear, independence in general
- Principal also explained the work of the school-based SEL committee and the whole school work the entire staff did at staff meetings, including charts of what is expected at each grade level in SEL, and how the teachers identified and categorized grade level goals

- **SEL Continued**

- SEL committee is working on reporting back to the staff, but we are waiting for the district to decide on a new SEL curriculum
- There is a CPH SEL committee meeting today
- There is a discussion scheduled for district leadership to decide on SEL
- Principal explained latest Tech professional development for teachers, including Brainpop, which has an SEL portal
- Tech also presented Encyclopedia Britannica, which has a major SEL component as well
- Principal proposed using these existing resources that we already have to teach SEL. For example: in first grade, all students will have had these four lessons about self advocacy, etc. Maybe summer work by teachers to identify and align these lessons for each grade level
- Parents reported their child enjoys Brainpop
- New district wide elementary health teacher also teaching some SEL within her curriculum
- Parents discussed following through at home, a parent suggested SEL homework, like watching a Brainpop about an SEL topic and discussing it
- Schedule discussion
- Math discussion

Next Steps