

The Bromfield School

School Council Minutes, Wednesday, December 12, 2018
Faculty Lounge 3PM

Attendees: Scott Hoffman, Kate Selig, Trish Nilan, Elena Franklin, Chris Jones, Jessica Finnegan, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Sharon Cronin, Vivian Liu, Colleen Nigus, Ben Myers, Mary Traphagen, Deb Barton, Karen Strickland

Vision Statement:

The Harvard Public Schools community, dedicated to educational excellence, guides all students to realize their highest potential by balancing academic achievement with personal well-being in the pursuit of individual dreams. The students engage in learning how to access and apply knowledge, think critically and creatively, and communicate effectively. They develop the confidence and ability to understand diverse perspectives, collaborate, and contribute to their local, national and global communities.

Principal's Update: We have lots to celebrate!

- Trivia Night - October 18; QuizBowl team fund raiser
- SWAT Team honored - October 18 Mechanics Hall
- Minister, Zen Master, Hindu Pandit Walk into...diversity event - October 25 - Nice Crowd
- Grade 7, 8, 9 Dance - October 26
- Movie filming downtown Oct 26, Nov 5, Nov. 6 - minimal disruption
- Term 1 Report Cards - sent to parents on November 9.
- "Pep Rally" - November 8 - Got ready for District Races and Boys Soccer Final; Highlighted other achievements, focused on kindness and inclusiveness
- November 9 - Safety Drill - Bags in hall and use of police dog.
- "Lion King Jr." - Great Show and Crowds each night.
- Numerous Athletic Honors for the Fall
 - Ayer-Shirley/Bromfield Football - Winning Season
 - Field Hockey Team - Qualified for Districts
 - Girls Soccer - League Champions
 - Golf Team - District Champions
 - Boys Cross-Country - Nice Runs at League, District, and State Meet
 - Girls Cross-Country - third at districts, ran well at states, nice performance at Nike Cross-Country Regional Meet
 - Boys Soccer – League and MIAA Division 4 State Champions! Great crowds at games.
- Coffee House
- Kevin Hill Presentation - November 14th - Crowd of 100-125, filmed it, on website now
- Parent Teacher Conferences

Events

- Multi-Cultural Dance for Grades 7-9
- Parent to Parent College Night, December 4
- Middle School Winter Concert, December 6
- High School Winter Concert, December 13
- Professional Development - Technology-Atlas Rubicon; Questioning Techniques, SAMR Model, December 12
- December 21 - Middle School Geography Bee, Volleyball vs. Teachers, High School Brain Break
- February 6 - Refresh Day

Challenge Day - Grade 8

Finalizing Budget to go to School Committee and Town. The working assumption is to provide level service.

School Committee Update (Traphagen)

The committee approved the budget for 2019-2020. The increase is slightly less than 4%. Next steps in approval cycle are FinCom and Select Board.

The budget includes improvements to kitchen, science lab ventilation, gym bleachers (replacement), Cronin Auditorium. Two more vans will be bought from the CASE Collaborative, to reduce contracted bus expenses and to share with COA.

Sub-Committee Updates

- **Balance Sub-Committee**
- Review Recommendations from Balance Committee, determine how we implement.
- Develop a policy that defines parameters of the AP Program (Number and Grade)
 - Scott takes recommendations to department leader meeting.
 - Recommendations eventually to faculty, students, and parents.
 - Look at AP policies of other schools (Acton-Boxboro, L-S, Concord-Carlisle, Littleton, Bedford, etc) Put topic on agendas of Guidance Group, Principal Meetings.
 - Look to have consensus and final recommendation by March 1st.
- Add information to Program of Studies about course expectations...homework, group projects, grading expectations...Pass/Fail option as needed, e.g. illness, concussion.
- Homework Policy - survey other comparable schools about limits, coordination among teachers.
 - Scott to bring homework policy discussion to Principal Group; Sara ask Guidance Group.
- Valedictorian/Salutatorian - Criteria
- Updates from Scott - Other schools policies about AP Courses and Homework Policy
 - 21 school data - asked 38
 - Turn and Listen in small groups
 - Report out findings

- School-wide place to find homework assignments on web site.
- Provide teachers with access to all homework assignments, too.
- Recommend a cap on APs at 3 per year for juniors and seniors.
- Difference between AP and honors - STEM honors more hands on, AP text and fact driven; may influence choices made by students.
- For courses in Program of Studies, provide ratings by students for students, e.g. amount of homework (low, high and median).
- Move to cum laude/magna cum laude from valedictorian/salutatorian

· **Careers Subcommittee**

· **Reality Fair**

- Select a date in May 2019.
- Prepare for fair with Guidance and Health.
- Additional volunteers needed for careers subcommittee, especially with social media knowledge, to pursue other career choice projects. (Colleen volunteered to serve)

Reflection

Two year anniversary of “the rock” incident.

Vaping and Marijuana Update

- What we have done so far and where do we go from here.
- Jan PD day - presentation about vaping and marijuana.
Vaping detectors?
Set up bedroom-like setting, with places that indicate use of substances, parents do search looking for clues, auditorium presentation after to educate parents about signs of substance use.

Update on School Improvement Plan

- Questions/Concerns from School Committee
Set specific goals re attendance and tardiness based on data collected.
- Discuss and vote changes?

New Business - None

Meetings for remainder of 2018-19 school year

January 9, February 13, **March 20th (new date)**, April 10, May 15, June 12

Ben Myers, Secretary, Bromfield School Council