

Hanlon School

Site Council

Monday, October 23, 2017

3:15-4:15

Principal's Office

Members

Sarah Cronin, Principal

Chris Causey, Parent

Rosie Patterson, Kindergarten teacher

Jason Hatcher, Parent

Laura Cavanagh, Grade 1 teacher

Christina Martin, Parent

Barbara Silverstein, Library Teacher/Coordinator

Mandy Taft, Parent

Kelly Fitzgerald, Special Educator

Brad Pindell, Community Representative

Agenda

1. Introductions
 - a. Members introduced themselves, their role, and shared memories of a favorite teacher from their past. We connected this to the importance of schools and the work we will do together this year.
2. What is Site Council?
 - a. Quiz- Everything you wanted to know about school site councils but were afraid to ask
3. Roles (need: Co-chair, Notetaker)
 - a. Co-Chair- Laura Cavanagh
 - b. Notetaker- Kelly Fitzgerald
 - c. Timekeeper- Jason Hatcher
4. Terms/Limits
 - a. We will strive for a two year staggered terms for parents and staff. Staggered terms will value the continuity and experience of longer term membership, as well as fresh perspectives and increased access to Council participation that arises from turnover. If that is not possible from year to year, we will open it up.
5. Norms
 - a. Move to next meeting.
6. Open Discussion
 - a. Process for School Improvement Plan writing
 - b. Discussion of Hanlon teacher-led WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) group- summary of last year's work and preview of One School, One Read effort for this fall.

- c. Discussion of community WISE (Westwood Inclusive Schools Effort) group and offers of parent support for inclusion work at Hanlon.

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