



Carlisle Public Schools

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School Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021
Via Zoom Conference Call - 3:15 pm

Minutes

Members Present:

Matt Mehler
Dennet Sidell
Chrisanthi Bethanis
Melissa Bilotta
Susan Fitzgerald
Liz Gray
Kieran Joshi
Jennifer Kaczinski
Linda Vanaria
Brian Waterson

Members Absent:

Jenn Saak

1. Welcome

2. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

3. Approval of March 24th, Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the School Advisory Council Minutes of March 24, 2021 was made by Liz Gray and seconded by Linda Vanaria. The minutes were approved as submitted.

4. MCAS Update

English Language Arts and Math MCAS tests will be administered during the month of May. Family Choice Remote students will come into the building to take their tests. Matt explained that parents do not have the option to "opt out" of MCAS. If students are absent, it will be listed as an unexcused absence. It does reflect on the district if students do not take the test.

The question of whether MCAS will go away in the future was asked. Dennet and Matt shared that MCAS is tied to legislation, we wouldn't be eligible for federal funding if we did not have our

students take the test and MCAS is tied to principal licenses. It was also noted that the testing company, Pearson, would lose a significant amount of money if MCAS was not done.

5. Playground Subcommittee Update:

Brian updated the School Advisory Council on the recent work of the Playground Subcommittee. Brian updated the School Committee recommending that the subcommittee move into the design phase of the project. He noted that the subcommittee is looking into expanding their roles. He added that next steps include, forming the Playground Improvement Committee, meet with towns boards, and look at designs. The subcommittee is planning to meet with the Historic Commission, the Planning Board, and the Recreation Committee. The subcommittee anticipates meeting with playground design companies.

6. Reintegration of FCR Children to Our Campus

Susan shared that she had some ideas for bringing students back to school. She suggested intergrade buddies, days across the summer for students to meet, grade level picnics, and letters/postcards with teachers and students.

Beth Grady will take her current 9 kindergarteners with her to first grade next year. Susan also suggested checking in with those students who returned this school year in December and March. Kieran suggested possible digital connections like Flipgrid with questions or welcome messages so that students feel like they are part of the community.

Matt reminded the Council that Middle School will look different in the fall. Brian suggested students making a video to show FCR students what school will look like when they return. Jenn agreed that the tour idea is important and it will be great for FCR kids to see familiar faces. She suggested that the school should be opened up for visits. Perhaps have every grade level make a video. Liz added that we need to remember there is a no-media list.

7. Discussion on a Possible Book Topic for SAC Committee Next Year

Dennet suggested that SAC could have a possible book for SAC to read and talk about at each meeting. Kieran noted that diversity is part of our discussions and perhaps we could focus on those topics/books.

8. Other

There is one more SAC meeting this year scheduled for Wednesday, June 9th.

A motion to adjourn the SAC meeting was made by Kieran Joshi and seconded by Susan. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.