

Friends of HWRHS & MRMS Meeting

Date: March 3, 2022

Time: 8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.

Attendees:

MaryBethTing, School Nurse, Principals Bryan Menegoni and Craig Hovey
Superintendent Eric Tracy.

Shelby Soleimani (recording minutes), Tina Mastrocola- meeting facilitator and Friends President

Superintendent's Report

Eric Tracy-

- Eric thanked the nurses for their efforts and approved the Miles River swag- shared that he hoped we would plan to sell at future events.
- Julie Campbell then stepped in to share a quick overview as representative from the School Committee on the FY23 Superintendent's budget.
- School Committee is unanimously behind this budget.
- Lowest increase of 1.8% in 5 years.
- Also has the backing of the Select Board from both Hamilton and Wenham.
- **OPEB** (Other Post Employment Benefits)- 3 million- biggest increase. Important to fund these retirement related benefits for our teachers and staff.
- Some of this 3 million is from money that was leftover at the end of last year's budget. Over 4 million was left over because of COVID- lack of spending.
- These are benefits for retirees of the district; currently have over 200 retirees; pay 60% of health insurance.
- Additionally, 325k was approved for repairs and maintenance of school buildings, largely to meet ADA requirements.
- There have been consistent supply chain issues also related to capital/construction improvements.
- Julia and Eric also shared about the Town Meeting- go to this and vote!
- Also shared that overall goals include more transparency around the budget.
- Considered to be a very fiscally responsible budget.
- Cutler School Project-
State invited to participate in the vetting of 270 days; state funding for elementary school updates.
- Reach out to Eric Tracy with questions.

Craig Hovey's Update

- Mask update
- School committee to vote on mask mandate to be lifted (March 3rd).
- March 7- Mask Optional.
- Assemblies will be happening with each grade to discuss this shift on the Friday before.
- Staff- may mask, some may not. Certainly in a transition phase. We're at a good place with numbers, please be sure to keep kids home if sick.
- Use at home testing and pool testing when necessary.
- Will reevaluate on 4/17.
- **SVIRT**- Screenings to take place in April- Nurse Ting
 - Screening tool that is mandated by the state towards substance abuse education. Will discuss peer pressure, how many times used in the past month, vaping/e-cigarettes, will report data back and it will be anonymized as well.
 - All screenings/questions and info gathered are confidential; only notify parents if imminent harm to self or others.
- Facilities Update- Security Cameras
 - Security camera project coming to an end.
 - All hallways/perimeter of building.
 - Signage will be up to notify people.
 - Note will go to parents.
- 10 picnic tables purchased for outdoor lunch.
- Student Council Fundraiser- raised \$836 through Coins Against Cancer.
- Moved school announcements from end of day to the beginning of the day.
 - Different crews will participate as well.
- Every other Wednesday have started "crew conversations"-
 - Targeted focus
 - Confidence/Managing stress
 - Crews will "set the norms" for conversations.

Reminder: March 14

- PD Day- no school
- DEI&B Work/Curriculum documentation.

Middle School Play- "This is a Test"

- Run on 3/31, 4/1 and 4/2
To take place in the library.

MCAS Dates:

- English- 4/4 and 4/5 for Grades 7, 8, 11 and 12
- Math- 5/9 – 5/10
- Science- 5/23-24

9th Grade Course Selection starting as well for 8th Graders.

Principal Menegoni Update

- Provided similar mask mandate update as Craig for middle school.
- Starting to get well into the “busy season”
- Winter Sports are in full swing.
- Girls Basketball Team- Beat Winthrop and are in the playoffs.
- Boys Hockey- also doing well.
- Esports Team- Gaming for the first time. 8 students participating this year.

New Family Outreach-

- New kids coming into school system, no where for families to turn.
- Raise more awareness in this space.
- Network/new families needs to be created.
- Establish parent and student ambassadors.
- Work with Jen Caulfield to this end.
- Share name with Ambassadors/parents—provide training in this space!
- Will discuss in future meetings.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.