

Agenda: Friends of Miles River Middle School/Hamilton Wenham High School

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022

Time: 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Presenters: Tina Mastrocola, Bryan Menegoni, Craig Hovey, Kirsten Losee.

Attendees: Parent Liaison Coordinator-Jennifer Caufield, Parents- Cassi Honda, Julie Campbell, Lisa Wheeler.

Meeting Minutes recorded by: Shelby Soleimani

Spirit Wear- Opened up orders the second week of December. Didn't get a huge turnout, there wasn't a big appetite for it. 35 orders before Christmas. Up to 43 orders at this point

Didn't get a lot of traction on these postings in Winthrop and Cutler.

Tina Q: Can we work with the vendor on possibly extending the deadline so that students have more of an opportunity to purchase them at future events? YES this can be done.

Craig Update:

Student Council Food Drive that is going through January 31st

- Teachers have worked with Accord on what they need, not just what we "think" they need.
- Post holiday dry goods and supplies. We're trying to do this by grade level as well.
- We are planning on doing a play this year, this is evolving- it's going to be a little different but looking at doing something in the Library rather than the auditorium. More details to come.
- A play about school. Chrissy Delima runs this.

Health/Safety

- Mask mandate extended through 2/28, still have one for the district as well. Shift in kids since coming back from the holidays; they're understanding that it's spreading. 1st day back did some grade level assemblies, talked about expectations. Kids have been really good about masks since coming back.
- Pool Testing is on Tuesdays. This week the courier didn't come until 5 p.m. so test results came in late.
- Nurses are working really hard. If there is something or gesture from Friends would go a long way; flowers or a nice note, doesn't have to be extraordinary, something that shows that families are grateful. They are often delivering hard news these days. It might be nice to have a delivery from a citrus grove in Florida. Any thoughts on this- meal gift card . . . might be nice to do a coordinated district wide gift. How would this work?? Each health representative cannot receive anything greater than \$50.

- **Booster Clinic** this Friday, January 14th being hosted at Miles River. Try to do as many vaccines as possible. Vaccine cards for stamping. Also asked about Insurance? Do kids need to bring their insurance cards?

January 19th- Eric Tracy will be doing a public budget presentation in Auditorium and the actual hearing on 1/20.

Katie Greer- speaker on Digital Safety, speaking to 7th and 8th graders, separate meetings. Great messaging for students; very interaction and will answer pretty much any question. Date: January 26th

Hamilton Police Department- Autism Disability Outreach, a way for parents to share with police department if household member has autism, should they have to respond, they'll know there is a family member with autism in the household. Detective Achadina (sp?) spearheading this. CPAC is sponsoring. January 18th Zoom Meeting on this.

Doing our best to keep students and staff here! Yesterday we had everybody here, but today had a couple of people out. Staff have been doing a great job working together and supporting each other.

Tina Q: How are we doing with substitutes? We're building our sub pool. Interviewed 2 people yesterday, and 2 more interviews today. Hopefully we're able to build up our stock pile. Craig and Liz have stepped in here and there.

Q: How many test and stays? As of today, 2 or 3. We had 28 positive cases last week. Number of positives is going out. Test and stay is for close contacts.

Q: How many people participate in pool testing? Testing coordination company asked us to reduce the number of people in the pool. Will be using more pool test supplies, fewer Binax test kits. A lot of cases we know who the positive case is. I don't have the specific number or percentage testing.

Bryan Menegoni- Hamilton Wenham High School Update:

- Last we saw Bryan was October.
- Had an open house at the beginning of December. Let 7th and 8th Grade families come into the high school. We'll probably continue to do this every year. Would like to do this earlier in the year moving forward.
- Fall Sports wrapped up late year- all teams qualified for state tournament action. Girls Soccer Team winning state championship was a great community boost. The outpouring of this game was wonderful.
- Pleased to announce two things relative to EdFund: Docfeld (Physics Teacher) wrote a grant for new Robotics Class, fairly sizable grant, semester elective, open to all students, 9-12. Project based and kids have a lot of interest in this topic as well.
- Crisco- therapy dog will be coming to the high school. Counseling staff will be trained as secondary handlers. It really changes the feel of the school. Crisco will be coming late next week.

- **Hour Long After School Academy-** designed to give kids a place to do their homework; a lot of students need consistency in setting and routine to complete work; how encouraging to attend? It will be voluntary yet we will strongly encourage students who are struggling to attend. We'll target specifically 9th and 10th graders. Who's supervising? Couple of people in mind for this- actually had applicants for this.
- **Wednesday, 1/26-** Katie Greer- to do a social media presentation, also with 9th and 10th grade students.
- **Monday, 2/7-** 9th Grade Communication/Leadership Workshop-- 9th Graders—different speed and reality; actual personal accountability as to how they do in school. Need to make sure they adjust to high school well- changing social reality, 14 year old mixing with 18 year old.
- Current 9th Graders need some help with communication and leadership- regular development has been truncated; Bring in outside consultants to assist with communication/leadership. Will run through series of exercises to assist with communication and connections.
- **Will this be something that remains in the future?** Yes, we are working into the budget for the future.
- Middle school kids really were the most vulnerable as a result of the pandemic.
- Friday, 2/17 have a 10th Grade Field Trip- **Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**; set up a bunch of different workshops, starting to work with them to set up the different activities. If interest in STEM, great opportunity.
- NEASC- Follow up visit- March 6th and 9th- determine accreditation status; gave report based on 2019 visit; addressing these issues now, and now they'll see how we've addressed these areas. Much more of a dialogue, used to be much more intense. A lot of what they've asked us to do we've had difficulty to address because of the pandemic.
- **DECA** students did well at regionals- state conference in Boston- large group of students will compete at the state level. All grade levels are represented. Whoever does well at state, will go on to Atlanta.
- **Drama Fest** is back—One Act Festival- new Theater Teacher- doing a production called "Oregon Trail" Will be competing on March 19th and 20th- first round and then regionals, etc. Very nice to have this back in person, though will be wearing mask.
- **Portrait of a Graduate-** working on creating an info-graphic to include 7 competencies which will appear on website, etc.
- **Boys Basketball Team-** playing a game at the Garden on Sunday, 1/30 at 8:30 against Revere.
- **Senior Class** will be attending a Red Sox game in May- games in May are absolutely freezing.
- **Peru Trip-** still going ahead. Logistical issues to consider. 20 something kids can attend.
- Successful Coat Drive- over the holidays. One of the DECA advisors is able to spearhead a lot of these community service events.
- **Ski Trips?** Yes these will be occurring this year. Getting students to sign up is difficult through email.

Tina Q:

Scholarship Questions- Sandy Williams is in charge. We've done \$1000 in the past but would like to increase this amount. Scholarship starts next month, the application process. Deadline will be closer to April.

General Conversation:

- Did raise some funds on "Giving Tuesday"- we raised \$500.
- Will do another large fundraising event in the Spring.
- Capitol Campaign specific to scholarships.
- Opportunity to donate directly to scholarships.
- Key is to have the stories of kids who got them; and what this meant to me.
 - Really helps to humanize this.

Scholarship Update:

- Perhaps present this to **Friends** at Buker, Winthrop and Cutler to ask Elementary School parents to review? *Tina will work with Sandy Williams and Lori Bouchard to address this.*
- Jen Caufield- may be able to participate as well. Committee that gets together to review the applications.
- In the past- 3 or 4 typically; split them up; take them home, read them, pick top two; bring them down to 8 applicants; hone this down to top 4; discuss why this and that . . . have to have back ups; sometimes one kid is picked for 8 scholarships. Need that top tier to avoid this happening. Happy to help with this if not weird. Hoping to have one or nobody.
- Could reach out to EdFund for mini grants? Because there's no field trips. High School and Middle School.
- Shelby and Tina will participate in the Scholarship Process.
- Approved budget amount of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for Scholarships.

DEIB Audit Process- very much in a gathering of information, February- the firm will be conducting parent surveys that they will work to get out to parents, then start setting up focus groups, to be held in March. Liz Lovell and Stacy Busik-

New families that come in during the academic year- register with Jen Caufield, first POC- then principal will reach out directly before they would start to "onboard" them; whether they tour, etc. No real "A to B to C" connection directly to a parent group.

Students- mentor concept; same way we do mentoring now- onboarding and Martha- if a tour-