

Friends of HWRHS/MRMS Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

Start Time: 8:30 AM

End Time: 10:05 AM

Location: Miles River Middle School (under the tents)

Speakers/Key Participants:

- Tina Mastrocola- President
- Shelby Soleimani- Vice President/Secretary (recorded minutes)
- Principal Craig Hovey- Miles River Middle School
- Principal Bryan Menegoni- Hamilton-Wenham High School
- Gift Wrap Fundraiser- Nancy Waddell
- Community Parent/District Liaison- Jen Caufield
- Nurse Ting - Miles River Middle School

Meeting was called to order by Tina Mastrocola, Friends President for 2021-2022. Tina introduced herself, as well as Shelby Soleimani, Vice President for 2021-2022. Tina also reviewed hand outs and agenda for the meeting. The handouts included an agenda, a line item budget from previous year and an overview of the Friends organization.

Tina then introduced both Principals Menegoni and Hovey and asked them to provide current status updates.

Principal Craig Hovey- Miles River Middle School

Big things going on this year- lofty district goals that we are working in concert on district, school and individual teacher level. Some of these goals/initiatives include:

- DE&I Advisory Committee has been created. Work on DE&I goals, will include an audit of district and practices.
- Portrait of a Graduate Design Team- K-12 volunteer- portrait of a learner, interest in joining either team, info on website.
- World Language Advisory Committee- sustainable world language program for the district, want to have a long term vision for the world languages. Craig and Bryan will be co-chairing this committee.

Craig reminded everybody to please go into Aspen and make sure to follow instructions that went out to update Aspen contacts, sign off on the Handbook, need this info to ensure emergency contact info is included and is accurate, if questions, please work with Martha Curran.

COVID Update- Mary Beth Ting (School Nurse):

Pool Testing on Tuesdays- 2 pools both have been fully negative.

Can sign up District Website COVID-19; link to "safety checks"- need to prepare, if RSVP comes in too late, will need to push to the next round.

A few new students participating, both have experienced in the last year, simply pushing a couple of rolling carts, down the hall and back the other way, call out kids 4 or 5 at a time. In and out of the classroom under 2 minutes.

High School has set up a space in the auditorium; swing through and swab and they're on their way,

If families do NOT wish to participate in safety checks, just let us know.

If a student is exposed at school, in the case they did not have their face covering properly, or within 3 feet of the person identified as being infectious, if all of these boxes were checked, then qualify for test and stay program. Student comes in the morning, rapid antigen test, run the test, control line, as long as blank, we're good, if second pink line, calling the parent to come home, when send child to school.

If in classes, DESE guidance is to keep kids learning; that is the design,

There were then a couple of questions related to pool testing directed to Mary Beth Ting. The questions were primarily whether it was best if students just did the pool testing to troubleshoot all of this, and Mary Beth replied that it was up to the discretion of the parents.

Reminder from Craig-Please make sure they wear masks on the **bus**, and please keep windows open on the bus as well.

After School Clubs have been starting up- information for dates and advisors, updating websites, cross country and golf intramurals, guitar/ukulele club, chorale, jazz band, GSA is starting up, applications for student council opening on Monday, Art Club and Cooking Club, actually do some cooking in the kitchen with hot plates, etc.

Field Trips/Guest Speakers- we are going ahead with this year- Guest Speakers/Field Trips- using masks, no official field trips at this time, some stuff in the works, any of this is subject to change, at this time no DC trip for 8th graders, we plan though other opportunities for 8th grade.

Technology- 8th graders have had iPads; 7th Graders' iPads have been shipped, hopefully ready in 2 weeks, once this is complete, 6th graders will receive their Chrome books.

Pictures- retakes are taking place soon.

Q: Is there an application online for student council? Applications are not online, yet available in the office.

Q: Field trips for Middle and High School?

Bus driver issue might impact this. Hope is that since most are during the school day, that there would be bus drivers available; haven't heard from Salters specifically about issues and staffing gaps related to field trips.

Q: Any interest in Math Team? No interest at this time; have put out the call though. Middle school possibly combine with high school math team? Likely not a possibility since there is nobody willing to take this on.

Q: How do sign up for clubs? During the day there are announcements, message board in the cafeteria, try to be a little more diligent in updating parents with that. Working hard to update

Q: Is there any talk about engaging 7th Graders this year since they didn't have anything last year?

We will start this conversation, perhaps Student Council- they may be able to engage on this topic.

Principal Bryan Menegoni: HWHS Principal

Bryan referenced that his job title change happened rather quickly; great opening to the school year, kids like to be at school, enjoy seeing their friends and speaking with their teachers; it's like school was, just can't see faces, :), there is a lot of great energy.

Portrait of Graduate/DE&I Plan- necessary to make this work; Aspen updates are very important as well.

Learning model in HS is to be very collaborative, want pushed together in groups, talking to each other; especially as a Science Teacher, back at Lab tables, this is very important that we have moved back to this model,

Starting to think about- what did we learn last year about "weird circumstances"? What can we take from last year and plug in how we did things.

105 minutes in high school- were able to really check in closely with kids, give them time to do homework and ask questions.

Looking at block schedule at high school in terms of how to map out the day, what did we learn last year that was positive and how do we leverage this in the future.

Athletics are up and running- have been since August- competition season has really kicked in; many **clubs** up and running-see below:

Adventure/DECA/Art Club/Dell Bells/Environ/Fall Musical/General Consensus/GSA/HWGives Back/Juggling/Magic Club/Kings of Beach/Literary Mag/MOdel Un/Robotics/Science/Social Justice/Spanish/Student Government/Theater/Yearbook/Mock Trial and Math Team- Chris Campbell, head of Math department.

Student Leadership-

Have elected the Student government officers; handle fundraising requests, in charge of spirit week, elections for each class.

Group of teachers instead of one individual; will need to get going to plan for Spirit Week, around Thanksgiving time, Cape Ann League Principals- others will be doing as well, Class Officers- collecting names of students who want to run for class office; need these students from freshman year to senior year. Senior Class officers are very busy, this work starts freshman year; encourage kids to sign up; need to see advisor by end of day 9/24/2021 to announce themselves, Speeches will take place on Wed, 10/6. Elections right after online. About three weeks behind where we want to be.

PSAT for sophomores and juniors- take place during school day. Allows to get information back otherwise they keep it

10/13/2021- Juniors/Sophomores sign up and will participate, generally done by lunch time.

Picture Retakes- will be on 10/20. Student IDs just came in; O'Connor has done something, just still waiting;

Q- Concussion baseline testing? Is this still going on? Craig Genualdo- not mandatory this year;

Q- Search for Bryan's replacement? Kirsten Loosee- head of fine arts, stepped into this role, always extremely organized, great teacher because of how she worked with students. She is doing very well, and has stepped right in.

Q- Homecoming dance this year? This will be up to who is elected to student officers and student council. Activities during the week of Thanksgiving.

Q: MCAS results- school wide are on the DESE website- understanding is that individual student score reports and will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. Language literacy as well will be sent home with MCAS results.

Given everything that has gone on- the current senior class didn't have to pass to graduate high school, juniors and below

Current seniors did not take MCAS their sophomore year, therefore not able to compete for Adams Scholarship, because of this offering the opportunity to do so.

Q: Is there any concerns with middle school transitioning to high school events/activities?

Middle school kids are resilient- want the students to really drive this.

High school presentations- see some of this to the middle school ; transition to high school is seamless; There seemed to be “more” at the high school.

Late Buses are available at 3:30- one for Hamilton and one for Wenham.

The meeting then transitioned to more general Friends updates and Tina shared a bit more on the overview of the year and what to expect.

Jennifer Caufield- Family and Community Engagement Liaison

Jen Caufield spoke about her new role.

Took this position last year in the Spring of COVID- developed as it felt like the community had lost a connection to central office.

Most important- rebuilding connection to the community; in person meetings are most important, also working on a Portrait of a Graduate.

Q: How is it going? It's been a learning curve, the other side of the desk for 18 years, it's actually really good, everybody at Central is really excited about Eric moving into the Superintendent role. He will be here on 2 year interim basis.

Q: What are you looking for from parents? Bring on the good, bad and the ugly. There are a lot of processes and procedures to put into place. We need feedback from parents!

Fundraising- Innisbrook Wrapping Paper Sales Update- Nancy Waddell

Nancy ran the gift wrapping process last year, Jen Caufield ran the year before; Most importantly looking for somebody to take over for next year, hopefully packets are here starting tomorrow; it would be great to have somebody designated to help me out with this starting tomorrow.

Packets go home hopefully Monday- nervous about supply chain issues due to COVID- hope to ship by Thanksgiving, because people want gift wrap by Christmas, if shooting for Thanksgiving, a little bit delayed, still have some time in there; if miss deadline; assume have chance to miss order.

Much easier than when Jenn did it, everything is online, kids can submit a written order, and also online, don't get stuff here at school, all gets mailed directly to homes, shipping may be an issue--6th do great, 7th not as great, 8th grade barely meet minimum; please let Nancy Waddell if interested in taking this on for next year.

Highest selling crew- Teacher receives a gift basket, Amy Simone created this; email to Martha Curran, sends out to everybody to remind, shares how much money is raised, work is done by end of October.

Middle School Fundraiser- want to get the high schoolers involved as well. Can send to high school parents via email. They definitely will buy.

Lori Bouchard has agreed to take on the liaison role with the high school. This right now is our principal fundraiser. A rep from each grade would be great to help motivate sales. Somebody willing to shadow Nancy.

Q: Can we just give money instead? Yes of course, but need to go through Miles River Friends Group; PayPal link- include a comment on Innisbrook Wrap and the kid's name. Can count towards total awards.

Number goal for the fundraiser: **\$6,000 netted last year.**

Budget- Handout

Q: Ever run a gift wrapping table to help to promote this? Not in the past.

Link to Innisbrook Wrapping Paper on the website-

Q: List of contact info: there is a Friends tab- email address is on there, as well as contact information.

Budget has not yet been fully revised, Leslie Jorgenson is not available to attend this meeting today, will present full budget in **October** Meeting.

6th Grade BBQ- asking Friends to cover \$541.48-Lori- would say "yes" for this year; Friends does not typically cover this budget item- H2O Mentors- request to cover cost of BBQ-- Line Item- **\$500** under "other" on the budget. Request is to fund the BBQ in lieu of monies for t-shirts. There was a motion which was seconded to go back and discuss with school as to why these dollars were requested, as this is not a cost typically covered.

There was a reminder that there is a Friends of the Arts Meeting taking place on 9/29.

Monthly Meetings- time/dates- evening meeting as well- between now and October meeting;

School Committee Meetings- Thursday evenings should be avoided.

There were also quite a few ideas about fundraising. **Julia Campbell** has volunteered to run a fundraising committee.

Pamela Milman Stein will be working to find liaisons to represent each grade at the middle school and interface with The Friends Group.