



**01/17/2019**

## **School Council Meeting**

*Attendees: Principal Donnelly, Lisa Pais, Dr. O'Toole, Virginia Vienneau, Sunny Marcus, Louis Schirripa, Christopher Coleman, Nancy Santana, Rebecca Smith, Erin Nestor*

**Call to Order** - Meeting started at 7:55 am

### **Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2018**

- The group reviewed minutes and motion to approve was submitted by Principal Donnelly and seconded by multiple members. Minutes were accepted.

### **Admissions Update**

- Principal Donnelly mentioned that recruitment visits took place in the fall with students and a new recruitment video was shown. This year we have 1242 applicants, which is the most we've ever had. She added that there were two new CTE programs being offered - Agriculture Mechanics and Construction Craft Labor.
- Mr. Coleman asked if the school had enough space to accommodate the two new programs? Principal Donnelly answered that most likely AG Mechanics would be located in Arbor & Craft Labor would be located in Carpentry.
- Principal Donnelly continued to mention that interviews with prospective students started this week. They'll interview up until around the 18th of March, including on-site vacation week interviews. Then the acceptance letters go out around April 12th. The numbers of applicants by town were provided.
- Ms. Santana asked if the ratio of acceptances differed by town? Principal Donnelly answered no, all admissions are based on the score.
- Mr. Coleman asked how admissions worked regarding race? Principal Donnelly answered that all of that information is blind. Mr. Coleman went on to ask if we look at enrollment to determine whether there needs to be something done regarding that? Principal Donnelly answered that as of now, the admissions process does not include any of that but that they are looking to possibly recruit earlier. Mr. Coleman added that he has been contacted by eight different parents who told him that kids are not applying due to the lack of diversity here. Principal Donnelly offered that the Cultural Awareness Collaborative presented at the Faculty meeting about what they see on a day to day basis. She added that this is something that is being actively worked on and we hope that we are moving in the right direction. Mr. Coleman offered that perhaps we should have the Cultural Awareness Collaborative go out to present as part of recruitment. Ms. Pais added that it might be a good idea to have a video presentation from the Cultural Awareness Collaborative. Mr. Schirripa mentioned that sending people in person is key, that a video may be too cookie cutter. Mr. Coleman said that he applauds what we are doing here, as it is much more than some of the other schools around. Mr. Schirripa added that convenience may be a deterrent for prospective applicants. He offered that getting a message out saying that there are ways around the transportation/convenience issue. Ms. Marcus commented about how she



comes from Malden and the commute can be pretty bad, but that it is worth it to come here. She added that there is a misnomer that this known as a “White School.”

- Mr. Coleman asked if the application number increases each year? Principal Donnelly answered yes, although she is surprised that the number is this high, adding that the goal is to possibly expand in some programs.
- Mr. Schirripa asked if we ask the perfect score students why they are choosing ENSATS? Principal Donnelly answered that the applicants are asked during the interview, but the information is not really shared outside of the interview.
- Ms. Smith mentioned that the summer program for animal science was very well received.

### **Budget Update**

- Principal Donnelly shared that budget preparation started in November. She added that wish lists were submitted by each department. Department directors were asked to cut 10% from last year’s budget. The lists are then reviewed & approved by Administration and in mid-February, the preliminary budget is submitted to School Committee. The Superintendent will also meet with each town to discuss any concerns if needed.
- Mr. Coleman asked if the 10% reduction was from the wish list or from allocation? Principal Donnelly answered that it was originally done from the wish list.

### **Cooperative Education Update**

- Principal Donnelly informed the group that there are currently 77 seniors on co-op and 11 are on internships. She added that tomorrow is day 90, so juniors are now allowed to go out as well. There are an expected 18 juniors on co-op and 2 on internships. Principal Donnelly also said that if seniors show interest they can still pursue co-op and internships.
- Ms. Santana asked what current programs do not have students out? Ms. Vienneau answered that she knew that there are two programs that are looking to go out, Biotech and Cosmetology.
- Mr. Coleman asked for an update on the possibility of transporting students, to which Principal Donnelly answered that we are still working on that.

### **Hawk Holiday Hope**

- Principal Donnelly informed the group that the program donated over 1000 gifts to over 125 children in the care of the Department of Children & Families. She added that each class hosted a child, plus other additional staff members hosted individual kids. She concluded that Hawk Holiday Hope is a very successful community service project.

### **Mass IDEAS Grant**

- Dr. O’Toole informed the group that the check has arrived already. He explained that 5 schools across the state received the grant (planning grant) - Salem, Barnstable Intermediate School, Monument



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Mountain, Mohawk Trail, and Essex. He added that we will work and plan together on the school redesign. With students at the center of the learning, focusing on equitability, learning mindset, learner-driven, personalization and high expectations. He continued explaining that we get a coach that will work with us out of Boston (who lives in Vermont) from January 2019 to April 2020. Dr. O'Toole also added that there is a second part of the grant (implementation) that is not guaranteed which is \$350k. He informed the group that MASS Ideas is wary about our admissions process. Adding that they would like to work on the integration of both Agricultural/Technical and Academics, bringing both sides together. He said that our being new is helpful because we haven't been locked in our ways of doing things for the past 20 years etc.

- Ms. Pais asked whether the second part would go out for the general public to apply and Dr. O'Toole responded that the second part would be awarded to two of the five schools that are already involved.
- Principal Donnelly asked Dr. O'Toole when the MASS Ideas Grant planning starts? Dr. O'Toole answered that the planning starts now.
- Principal Donnelly added that there was a lot of work involved and there will be periodic updates as they go through the various stages.

### **New Business**

- Principal Donnelly informed the group that there will be a collaboration with Gloucester students that had either applied to ENSATS and weren't accepted, or possibly had a change of heart regarding applying. These kids will get 4 hours of CTE training here.
- Mr. Coleman asked about whether there were quotes provided for the yearbook? Principal Donnelly answered that she would find out.
- Principal Donnelly then offered that the group takes a look at all of the photos around the room that were taken by students from their "sending towns".

**Adjournment-** Meeting adjourned at 9:17 am.