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**Plymouth River School**

School Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2018

2:30 – 3:30pm

Attendance:

Melissa Smith

Nancy Bucey

Michelle Shapiro

Kelly Jones

Katie Rogers

**Agenda:**

* Call to order: 2:30 p.m.
* Approval of minutes from last meeting. Approved
* PRS website review <http://hinghamschools.com/plymouth-river-elementary-school/> -Melissa reviewed the previous suggestions made by the Council and updated the changes on the website.

-The Council should continue to review the website and inform Melissa of necessary suggestions and/or changes.

* PRS handbook – Council should review and then revise/update

-Reviewed by Melissa and Charleen reviewed over summer 2017

-Melissa asked that all Council members review the handbook and provide feedback.

-Melissa asked for special attention to paid to the recess information (e.g., number of recesses, times and necessary clothing).

-Per the Council members suggestion, Melissa will add temperature cut off and where the information regarding indoor and outdoor recess comes from.

-When reviewing the handbook, the Council should also pay special attention to electronic devices (e.g., expensive devices, where to keep them at school, safety device for families who have children who walk home). What to name the device in the handbook? (e.g., Ipad vs. Tablet)? What is the purpose of the device? Recording capabilities on the devices? Texting on Fitbit? Leave in devices in backpack, “at your own risk.” The Council discussed the need to specify the name of the device and the regulations.

* MCAS accountability letter

-We were not given a “level” of accountability. This year we have no level. Next year we will have a level. The high school was given a level 1/graduation related.

-Nancy Bucey asked if the levels will be 1-5 next year. Melissa believes it will be 5 levels but will wait for more information from the State.

-The Council reviewed data related to the MCAS.

* January theme: Choose kind

-Announcements, all school meetings and teachers will reinforce everyday

-The Council discussed that the themes are “sticking” with the students. They are discussing the themes at home and in classrooms.

-Melissa discussed, “choose kind” initiative and the theory behind it. What it means to be kind to others? Being genuine. Being kinder than necessary

-Melissa reviewed the student/classroom activity related to “choose kind.” The recipient of the kindness will put name in jar. End of the week, a name from each class will be drawn and the student will get a pencil or a pin.

* K Information session for pre-school parents – Tuesday, January 9th @ 7pm

-Hingham Public Schools working closely with the preschools in Hingham to get information out to parents. More outreach to parents. Parent want to make a better decisions about whether to send their child to kindergarten or hold off an additional year.

-Town hall meeting with parents, principals, kindergarten teachers representatives.

-Discussion whether policy should change or not. School Committee voted not to change the policy.

* Added by Melissa: Social Emotional Survey: Results are in but have not been shared. PRS-March 6th (staff informational session)/March 7th (Parent informational session).
* Other items as may not reasonably be known 48 hours in advance of the meeting

-How is the bus arrival going? The Council mentioned that there has been positive parent feedback

-Melissa asked if she should send an additional email out. Parent representatives on the Council indicated that she has communicated recently and it is not necessary at this time. The new driveline procedure has been well received.

-Melissa asked about the afternoon pick up. Maybe a discussion in the future.

-Additional website information: Parents are liking “Fast Facts” that Melissa has added to the website. For early releases, perhaps highlights the times and whether lunch will be served or not. Common Questions for parents outlining procedures has been helpful. Melissa should mention in the Weekly Wizard that the website has been updated. Michelle Shapiro would like to consider adding the report card dates and conference dates. Also, the “specialist” day-now on the PRS main page.

* Public Comments

Melissa asked if any additional information to add to next agenda? -Handbook & Poetry contest

-Still looking for a community representative.

-Local buzz about “Blizzard bag”-homework bag for snow days. Does it replace the snow day and the students do not have to make up the day? Virtual snow day?

-Mis information on the snow days. Are days built into the calendar or not? Melissa will put something in the Weekly Wizard about days of the week, snow days, etc. Can not going into July 2018 (new fiscal year).

* Adjournment: 3:40 p.m.

**Purpose:** *A school council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members and, at the secondary level, students, required to be established by each school pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C.*[*more info*](http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/advisory/schoolcouncils/part1.html)

**Responsibilities:** To assist principal in:

* Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
* Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
* Reviewing the annual school building budget
* Formulating a school improvement plan

**Members:**

Principal - Melissa Smith

Staff Member  - Nancy Bucey

Staff Member - Michelle Shapiro

Parent - Kelly Jones

Parent - Katie Rogers

Community Representative -?

**Next Meeting Dates:***\*Typically the third Monday of the month at 2:30pm*

October 16, November 20, January 8, February 12, March 19, April 9, May 21

**Audience Members:**

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*Reminder:* Post to PRS website and send agenda to the Town Clerk ([townclerk@hingham-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@hingham-ma.gov)) for posting 48 hours prior to the meeting.