



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

School Council -Wood End Elementary

Date: 2020-10-26

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: School - Wood End

Location:

Address: 85 Sunset Rock Lane

Session: Open Session

Purpose: Regular Meeting for 2020-21

Version: Draft

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Lori Abelson, Lindsay Baker, Nicole Cella, Mia Gaska, Jessica Hester, Joanne King, Kevin Sexton, Christine St. Hilaire.

Members - Not Present:

Others Present:

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Joanne King

Topics of Discussion:

The first monthly meeting of the Wood End Elementary School Council was held via Zoom on October 26, 2020.

Call to order:

A quorum of members being present, and the meeting having been duly convened for Wood End Elementary School by the Principal, Joanne King called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and proceeded with business.

Public Comment:

No public comments were shared.

Review and Acceptance of Minutes:

No meeting minutes were reviewed.

Old Business: None at this time.

New Business:

Election of Co-Chair/Secretary: After welcome introductions and a brief discussion Kevin Sexton volunteered to serve as co-chair of this committee and Mia Gaska volunteered to serve as secretary. Both were elected to those positions for the 2020-21 school year.

School Improvement Plans: Dr. King shared an initial draft of the goals for the School Improvement Plan for the 2020-21 school year. The plan will focus on three specific goals for Wood End – Equity and Anti-Bias Education, Hybrid Teaching & Learning, and Attendance. The plan also included the school's mission and vision statements, core values,

and strategic objectives. The specific initiatives to achieve each goal are currently being developed and will be shared with this group for review and feedback.



Wood End Elementary School Plan Overview 2020-2021



Mission of Reading Public Schools		
<i>Instilling a joy of learning and inspiring the innovative leaders of tomorrow</i>		
Vision		
Wood End Elementary School seeks to create a safe and supportive learning environment. We will work to achieve this aim through the implementation of a tiered support system that promotes clearly defined and consistent student expectations and accountabilities based on our core values, communication and collaboration within our school community, reliance on data for decision making purposes, and an efficient and effective response to the needs of our students who require additional support to be successful. We will foster an environment that focuses on our students' success!		
Core Values		
<i>Wood End Wildcats are responsible, respectful, honest, engaged & safe</i>		
School Goal for 2020-2021 School Year		
During the 2020-21 school year, Wood End Elementary School will implement a learning plan aligned to grade-level standards that can be utilized in both remote and hybrid settings, provide training and support for teachers, and provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. The success of our students will be evidenced by an increase in student performance on district-aligned assessments (i.e. iStation, F&P Benchmark Assessment, AMC, and Edulastic assessments), an increase in teacher efficacy using learning platforms and online collaborative tools, an increase in equitable teaching and learning practices, and a decrease in chronic student absenteeism.		
Strategic Objectives		
Strategic Objective A - Equity Equity, Diversity & Inclusive Practices	Strategic Objective B - Hybrid Coherent Instructional Systems	Strategic Objective C - Attendance Safe & Supportive Learning Environment
The school will focus on improving racial and educational equity in our school and community through informed communication and practices, most notably in our curriculum and classroom instruction.	The school will provide quality standards-based instruction, using both synchronous and asynchronous models, a uniform digital learning platform, and training/support for students, families and staff to promote student growth.	The school will provide a safe and supportive learning environment, for both in-person and remote learning, to improve student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism.

A discussion about each area included:

Chronic absenteeism: Attendance is still an area of concern at Wood End with the overall attendance rate currently at 96.62%. This is fairly significant for a district like Reading. The data for August 2010 through March 13, 2020 shows 72 students had 10+ absences, which is considered chronic. Attendance for the full school year could not be calculated due to COVID closure, though absences were consistent across all grade levels, K-5. Dr. King will continue to reach out to individual families to create plans to improve student attendance and encourage parents/guardians to keep students in school.

Hybrid Teaching & Learning: Teachers and staff spent the first 10 days of the school year learning new technology including our new Learning Management System (LMS) Google Classroom. Training for other digital tools included SeeSaw, Pear Deck, Zoom, and Microsoft Teams. Staff had opportunities to learn and practice tools, equip the satellite classrooms, and set up virtual meetings prior to students beginning school. Teachers are currently using a variety of small group/individual conferences and assessments and breakout rooms to assess student learning. Students are "digital natives" have become very familiar with this new technology. Families continue to need support and some coaching on all the new technologies, though the gradual well-paced introductions to tools have been helpful. Teachers are sensitive to the students' needs and increased screen time, giving breaks when possible, sharing screens in breakout rooms to trouble shoot problems, and offering 1:1 help sessions when needed.

Equity: Supporting administrators, teachers, students, and families in achieving racial and educational equity in our school and community is an area of focus for Wood End. This will include teaching about equity and anti-bias as well as providing more diverse resources for teachers, students and families to raise awareness and shift practices to promote a safe learning community for all. Our library media specialist has been sharing book recommendations to families via Instagram, and they have been well received. A wide range of literature has been purchased for our school library. Suggestions for sharing information and resources included book talks, TED-Talks, parent book group, dedicating time during school year for topics (monthly meetings focused on a specific topic), guide of resources, speaker sessions, and professional development. Committee members were asked to begin researching topics of interest to share with one another so we can begin planning next steps.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the School Council adjourned at 8:25 p.m. with plans to reconvene on January 25, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanne King,
Recording Secretary