

**NHS – SGC Minutes – November 17, 2020**  
**6:00-7:30 via Zoom Conference**

**Members present:** Reginald Roberts Principal. Parents: Jimi Napoli, Becky Aurilio, Tina Brescia, Kirsten Clarke, Bob Duff. Teachers: Don Fessenden, Sean Ireland, Katelyn Moffett, Patricia O'Connor, Lynn Payton. Community member: Student reps: Frankie Bonaddio, Olivia Mattera. **Members not in attendance:** Jeff Fatone, Rick McQuaid, Kevin Mullins, Michael Crafter

**Old Business**

- **Review, edit, and approved – October minutes.**
- **Review and Finalize future meeting dates for the year: 12/8/20, 1/5/21, 2/2/21, 3/2/21, 4/6/21, 5/4/21, 6/1/21**
- **Review Advisory Topic since last meeting and plan forward** - a memo was drafted to send to the chief academic officer but there is a new person coming in January. The department staff met with the academic officer and explained the issues. She said to keep the double advisories for now through December. The Superintendent wants advisory to be focused on social emotional learning. Discussion of when to send the memo now or wait for the new Chief Academic Officer.

**New Business:**

- **School Improvement Plan** – Reginald reviewed the template for the School Improvement Plan from the district. He met with the department chairs to get their thoughts on areas for improvement in the school as well as strengths and priority needs to be addressed, how staff can influence supportive environment, etc. Reginald will compile all the department comments and share with SGC. Dr. Estrella wants administrators to be in classrooms at least 50% of the time. The focus should be instruction leadership and not just management.
- Discussion with the student representatives about how to engage students and why some students are just turning on their computer and leaving the room. The students talked about the tendency for many students to procrastinate and the assignments pile up. Discussion about leaving Camera on. Olivia finds she is more focused when her camera is on. Suggested that teachers monitor the work as students are working in real time. Suggested using applications that allow teachers to see students doing their work. Other comments – when all cameras are off the animation of interacting is boring. There are no class discussions. The students were in favor of having cameras on. The teachers commented on how difficult it is to engage and reach all the students in the class when you cannot see them.

**Principal's report:**

- Mr. Roberts met with Dr. Estrella, Frank Costanza, NCC, IBM, Karen Amaker – to discuss the plans for new NHS shared building. Reginald had not been included in the discussions previously, he will be included moving forward. The meeting included discussions about the specs for the new building and how the different schools will share the spaces and define their own spaces. Bob Duff noted that the new NHS is still in the very preliminary, planning and beginning phases. The city has not hired a contractor yet, there are meetings with the state. Nothing is firm or decided. The probably will not break ground until the end of next year.

- **Discussion of COVID** – The Superintendent said that the schools will stay open after Thanksgiving because the instances of COVID are happening outside of school settings. SGC discussed the financial savings that could occur if the middle and high schools were remote as well as the pros and cons of staying open and working 100% remotely.

#### **Teacher's Report:**

- The schedule with the long Mondays and taking 15 min. off the other days is stressful for some of the teachers. Classes are now 85 min. Concerned about the amount of time students are spending in front of the computer. Students need to get up and move.
- Request from Mr. Fessenden to send the key fob estimate and request issue to the new superintendent.
- Teacher concerns that proposed footprint for new NHS and Arts Academy is too small to accommodate existing programs.
- Ms. Payton reported that 75 families have been identified to be supported for Thanksgiving –This year they are giving gift cards to the families.

#### **Student Report:**

- Frankie Bonaddio– spirit week went well, a lot of students participated. Crazy hat day was the best event of the week.
- Students are asking about the status of midterms. Mr. Roberts said, yes midterms will happen, but it will be a full day schedule.
- NHS recently started up the peer mentoring program Monday through Friday after school.
- Request to bring back the wellness day but virtual because a lot of kids are depressed. Have the people who design the program to check in with the kids.
- Olivia Mattera – the students are designing class t-shirts but the students aren't buying them because they feel that they won't be seen. Student moral is still very low.
- SGC discussed ideas for student engagement and spirit building: color wars, Instagram live with each class. Have the class advisors host the events.

#### **Co-Chair's report –**

- Jimi Napoli– asked if we end up going to all online, do we change the schedule? There will not be a need for the 10 min. passing time, lunch could be at the same time for the whole school. Teachers asked to brainstorm ideas about how it could work.
- Mr. Roberts would love to talk to the other high schools. He and Scott have already discussed this. They prefer the old schedule that was done last spring. Hour per class in the morning and then afternoon time to work with individual students.
- Students said it was easier to stay engaged last spring. Olivia found that teachers did not always get back to her when she reached out during conference time.
- Discussion with students about how to follow up when they don't hear from teachers that they reach out to. Teachers told students to reach out to dept. heads, assistant principals, Mr. Roberts, to hold them accountable as this is their job. Discussion of teachers not updating power school daily. Mr. Roberts will look into this tomorrow.

**Next meeting will be December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:00 pm**