

NHS – SGC Minutes – May 6, 2020
6:00-7:30 via Zoom Conference

Members present: Reginald Roberts Principal. Parents: Jimi Napoli, April Guilbault, Tina Brescia, Kevin Mullins, Rick McQuaid. Teachers: Lauren Delong, Lynn Payton, Don Fessenden, Patricia O'Connor, Katelyn Moffett. Community members: Lori Sakowitz, Michael Crafter. Student reps: Frankie Bonaddio, Jamal Boyd. **Members not in attendance:** Bob Duff, Bethany Vayda

Old Business

- **Reviewed & approved - March. minutes.**

New Business:

Mr. Roberts presented the Panoramic survey and results:

Presented PowerPoint and detailed responses were shared with the group:

The survey was closed before many families in the district could complete it. The survey will be repeated again in the fall so that every family, teacher, & student has an opportunity to respond.

124 of 200 staff finished the survey at NHS. We did not have 100% responses so the results were a reflection of those who answered not the full community. There was a group discussion of the questions wondering how they gleaned information that is useful to the school/district.

SGC has to make an action plan based on the data from the survey

Question – how will these answers affect us moving forward, distance learning.

Reginald mentioned that all new hires at Norwalk SD need to be bilingual (must speak Spanish) moving forward and be prepared to provide distance learning.

- A new distance learning survey will be sent out this Friday and available through May 15th. The questions will be directed to parents, students, & staff. Reginald – asking teachers to give this as an assignment for students to ensure that all students respond.

Mr. Roberts presented information from the district

Working on Possible steps for returning to school

(Recommendations were based on an article in a periodical shared at a meeting.)

- Focus on improved hygiene/ Hand washing
- Class size of 12 or fewer / some students continue distance learning
- Staggered schedules, days, times of days
- Relaxed attendance policy
- Sports events, assemblies, large events may not happen in the fall.
- Provide social emotional support and practical help for students

Group Discussion and concerns about returning to school based learning:

- How do we handle passing time with any large number of students in the school?
- Are masks going to be worn? Does the school supply them?
- Do we return to an 8 period day?
- How do we keep art supplies sanitary? (Ind. Bags of supplies for each student.)
- Suggest hand sanitizer for the hallways or classrooms rather than bathroom hand washing
- Have doors open to eliminate touch points.

School Budget 2020-21

- We do not have the budget allotment for next year from Central Office. There are tentative numbers at this time so we may be able to keep our dept. chairs.
- During the district meeting on May 4th, every school wanted autonomy on where to make cuts if needed, when surveyed, rather than be told by central office how to spend the budget.
- Once we get the numbers we will have an impromptu meeting. Since P-Tech has become more independent with their budget, that frees up some money for us for next year.

Balance of the School Year – What we know, what we don't know:

Graduation – Discussion of ideas:

- **Possible drive in**, families watch from their cars, students walk across a stage.
- **In person graduation:** wait till August have parents on both sides of the field, have kids sit 6 feet apart. There are about 350 kids graduating.
- **Principal visits every student and passes out diploma.**
- Feedback from the students is that they want to see each other they don't really want a virtual graduation. Final decisions might be the mayor, not just superintendent. The health director will be on the call with superintendent to give direction on how to proceed with graduation

Grading

- **Finals** - There will not be finals this year. (Students have not yet been informed.)
- 3rd Q and 4th Q will be 25% of grade. 2nd Semester classes will be 50% each quarter (3 & 4)
- Grade Bracing is being discussed as a possibility – they will pick a point in time and the student will not go below that lowest grade for example from 2nd quarter if the lowest grade was a C the student will not score below a C for the second half of the year.

Summer school – discussions are occurring: either continue distance learning, or have half of the students on zoom half in class or all in class, though this is least likely.

- **Summer work packets** will be sent out. Some parents are requesting them already.

The prom has been cancelled- Discussion of what to do with the money, ideas included:

- purchasing a yearbook for all the kids.
- Return the money to parents.
- Plan a 1 year reunion,
- give gift cards to graduates.
- Frankie suggested that the current junior class could invite the 2020 class to their prom next year.

Funds remaining from 2019-20

- Mr. Roberts reported that there is \$80,000 left over for busses, coaches, subs, security that wasn't spent this spring. Some of that could be used as gifts to the seniors. He has already purchased smart boards, computers for ELL special Ed, cameras and other supplies that teachers have requested for classrooms.
- Mr. Roberts reported that every teacher is getting a lap top next year from a grant. Every freshman and sophomore is getting a new lap top in the fall as well. One teacher mentioned that it would be most helpful for those who are buying the computers to speak directly to teachers to find out what computers would be best for the classroom or distance teaching.

Other Updates:

- Mr. Roberts spoke to Mr. Rivera about how he is going to handle summer band practice and learned that there may not be a marching season next year due to the virus.
- New Superintendent starts July 1st. Dr. Adamowski will consult for the first 6 days.
- NPS had the NEASC visit and passed with flying colors. This is the 5-year report after the 10 year visit that took place in 2015. They are happy with the direction the district is taking.
- All school buildings are closed for the remainder of the school year. Mr. Roberts was told that after May 26th principal, RN, Secretary 2 Aps, 1-2 Security, 1-2 custodians will be the only ones allowed in building. A question was asked about how students can get things from their lockers. At this time only one of the core crew in the building would be able to access a locker and bring the items outside for a student.
- Mr. Sullivan mentioned to an SGC member that the Norwalk Helping Hands funds have been depleted since the pandemic. It was suggested that the parent Facebook page could add request for donations for Norwalk helping hands which provides assistance to students and families.

Next meeting will be scheduled when budget information is received from Central Office.