

Farmington River Elementary School Council Minutes

Thursday, October 3, 2024, 3:15 PM

In attendance: Charlie Ransom, Jaime Foster, Jennifer Hibbins, Amy Magovern, Laurie Flower

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm.
2. No public comments.
3. Welcome & Introductions
 - Introduction of council members - Terms, Replacements:
Laurie is seeking new teacher and parent representatives.
 - Overview of the School Council's role: Budgetary, school improvement plan. Need to improve the timing of improvement plan to get in next year's budget.
4. Approval of Minutes: Jamie motioned to approve, Charlie seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved for May 30, 2024.
5. Principal's Report
 - School Opening Update: Back to School Night was a success. New band rental agreements this year. Plus new laptops in the building.
 - Curriculum & Instruction: Piloting new writing curriculum: Wit and Wisdom. Teachers seem happy with it, particularly vocabulary and comprehension, and new reading materials with high-interest topics. Updated all Go Math curriculum. FRRES performed well in math MCAS. The 6th grade was in the 8th place in the state.
 - Key instructional focus areas for the year: ELA, reading and writing. Aimee suggested a reading rewards program. Ms Daley will be bringing back March Madness, incorporating P.E., art, music and reading.
6. Review of the School Improvement Plan (SIP)
 - Overview of current SIP goals
 - Enrollment: Word has spread and we have new Choice students, directly attributable to the flyer and other advertising. Plus new EL students bring diversity.

Foreign Language: Ran Duolingo program and researched DuBois program. Jennifer remembers Tim Lee suggesting starting as an afterschool program to gauge interest and then expanding to school day. Jeri may be a possible instructor.

Writing Program: Making progress to improve writing and overall ELA scores.

- Discussion of priorities for this year - Enrichment? Aimee has an idea for an afterschool History Club. Laurie suggests writing a grant for funding of afterschool clubs, including Spanish, and also for new recess games like Risk.

7. Budget Update

- Brief overview of the budget process and current financial status: ESSER money is gone for afterschool clubs and tutoring. So the budget is tighter overall.

8. Open Forum

- Questions and feedback from council members and attendees: Aimee asked about staff needs for the coming year from the PTA. Jamie and Laurie talked about the effects of COVID on math and early reading skills.

9. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment

- Date for the next meeting is set to Wednesday, Nov. 6th at 3:30 pm. Brainstorm at the next meeting for the next SIP.
- Jamie made the motion, Charlie seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.