

Abbot Elementary School Advisory Council Minutes
Tuesday, November 29, 2022
3:00 to 4:00 - Abbot Library

Members: Peter Myerson, Melissa Richard, Laura Anderson, ~~Christine Starvick~~, Jennifer Martinson, TJ Elder, Karen Wiczynski, Prajakta Kale, Julie Murrell

1. Review Minutes From October Meeting

2. Abbot School / District Updates

- School play - anyone who wants to be in it can join - huge turnout
- Science Night - approx. 175 kids, great feedback, coming back in the spring for a math night
- School pictures went home today, retakes Friday - O'Connor Studios
- 4 weeks of the holidays- keeping busy through the excitement
- District update - no talk of budget yet, overall numbers are going down

3. District Feasibility Work Update

- Look at all the buildings for how we can best use the space, what spare are they in? What do we have, what do numbers look like in the future? How can we reconfigure?
- Came in two weeks ago, did a walkthrough of rooms, how are they used? What are common spaces? Meeting rooms? Capacity? Life left in the buildings?
- Study will come out Spring/Summer 2023

4. Continue work on School District Improvement Plan Priorities

- Priority Area 2, 3, 4
- Priority Area 2
 - Feasibility Study -
 - optimal space per child
 - not everyone is "average"
 - K-5 buildings - social perspective
 - equity - space for sensory rooms
 - full access school choice - magnet school for stem/arts/etc

- Start Time Adjustments
 - Bussing, older kids watching younger, staffing after school program, sports, jobs - need to break up the “what” and the “how”
 - shorter day - does that impact it? - teachers want it, but want to be compensated for it
- Priority Area 3
 - realistic opportunities to release “pressure valve” on students and staff
 - Staff
 - Spring conferences
 - increase sub rate in order to draw in substitute
 - training for TAs
 - pay for TAs
 - Common planning time
 - Students
 - toolbox for students to cope with what is happening in their lives -
 - Both
 - goes back to priority 1 - longer term for priorities, too many initiatives, not enough PD
 - length of school days - not time for mental health
 - Give parents more info about MCAS
- Priority Area #4
 - Westford’s Climate Roadmap - Clean Energy and Sustainability Co.
 - include more in the curriculum about sustainability
 - Fresh Start gardens

5. Next Meeting - January 24, 2023 / Possible Joint Meeting with PTO