



STONY BROOK SCHOOL

9 FARMER WAY • WESTFORD, MA 01886 • 978-692-2708

Ms. Allison Hammer
Principal

Mr. Richard F. McElhinney, Jr.
Assistant Principal

School Advisory Council 2023-2024

The Stony Brook School Advisory Council collaborates respectfully and efficiently while developing and assessing goals towards a common objective in a fun environment that fosters listening and sharing, and encouraging feedback.

Date of Meeting: October 16, 2023

Time: 2:10-3:10

Location: Large Conference Room at Stony Brook

Council Members :

Principal	Allison Hammer	Present
Faculty	Helene Orvoen	Present
Faculty	Mindy Schnare	Present
Parent	Ramya Soman	Present
Co-Chair	Karen Wiczynski	Present
Community Rep	Jean Forrester	Present (remote)

Agenda:

1. Approve [minutes from April, 2023 SAC meeting](#)
2. Decide on Parent Co-Chair for 23-24 school year
3. Review 23-24 School Improvement Plan and needs for implementation

Discussion:

- Review of the minutes from April, 2023 SAC meeting: unanimously approved
- Decision on Parent co-chair : Karen Wiczynski volunteered
- Review of goal 1 Equitable Student outcomes :
 - Communication between both middle schools in order to align the activities in both schools to offer similar opportunities for future high schoolers at WA.
 - Question about music appreciation vs all year theater arts classes: 7th and 8th grade levels, adjustment made for scheduling purpose and class size, clarification about rotation.
 - Clarification about Theater arts offering in both schools : Stony has both the subject and the after school club leading to the plays and Blanchard has only the

after school club leading to the plays but is looking to offer Theater arts SY 24-25 if staffing is available.

- Explanation about evolution of comments shared with families through PowerSchool. Effort and Conduct are now written comments instead of grade 1-4.
- Question about transition of students between elementary and middle school: is it about the physical transition or about alignment between schools on the content learned? It is more about the physical transition. Discussions are going on based on the new curriculum. Leading to a question about the new curriculum: how long the new guidelines/curriculum stick around? Discussion about ever evolving programs.
- Review goal 2 Sense of Belonging:
 - Presentation about UDL and performance-based assessments
 - Presentation about ADL well implemented at Stony Brook; mention of last Spring activity to help students to work through uncomfortable situations and to identify micro-aggressions; explanation around how students take part of ADL and become a peer leader. Suggestion to add a communication to families around some activities going on at school such as ADL activities.
 - Question about a timeline implementing activities: there is no specific timeline, but they happen throughout the year and in different areas of the school.
 - Presentation about examples of how students can see themselves in the material used in their learning (ex: how students see scientists).
 - Discussion around student led groups such as the environmental club which led to the recycling happening in the cafeteria at Stony Brook.
- Review goal 3 Social, Emotional & Academic Engagement:
 - Mention of the panorama surveys and how to use the data and take actions based on the survey
- Questions about how international news affecting the whole population are shared within the school: some topics are tricky to address. Mention of documents accessible to children explaining the news in a way they can understand and process.

Decisions:

- Vote to approve April, 2023 minutes, approved unanimously
- Karen Wiczynski will be the Parent Co-Chair
- Meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM