



STONY BROOK SCHOOL

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Ms. Allison Hammer
Principal

Mr. Richard F. McElhinney, Jr.
Assistant Principal

School Advisory Council 2022-2023

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 encourages feedback.

Date of Meeting: November 14, 2022

Time: 2:10-3:10

Location: Remote Google Meet <https://meet.google.com/prq-kubk-cfr>

Council Members :

Principal	Allison Hammer	present
Faculty	Michele Dulczewski	present
Faculty	Mary Larkin	not present
Faculty	Helene Orvoen	present
Faculty	Mindy Schnare	present
Parent	Seema Pusalkar	present
Parent	Ramya Soman	present
Parent	Karen Wiczynski	present
Parent	Tom Hinkle	present

Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from [March 2022](#) and [October 2022](#) SAC meetings
2. Choose a co-chair
3. Continue looking at and giving feedback on 4 priority areas of Westford's Strategic District Improvement Plan
 - a. Will be the basis for Stony Brook's School Improvement Plan (SIP)
[Link to SB Copy of SDIP Priority Areas](#) (detailed notes for each priority area are in this document)

Discussion:

1. Approval Minutes:

- March, 2022 meeting minutes approved unanimously
- October, 2022 meeting minutes approved unanimously

2. Co-Chair

- Seema Pusalkar was nominated and voted unanimously for Co-Chair
- We are still working on finding a community member

3. Feedback from 4 Priorities of Westford's SDIP--See linked priority areas above for details

Priority Area #1:

- UDL-While there is not a 2 person PBL team, Inquiry based learning is still taking place and UDL is being introduced to teachers to help others implement the UDL process.
- Will be a great tool to allow students to have a voice and choice and allow them to access their own learning styles
- In discussing during PD, it seemed as though there was an understanding of the process, but teachers were not using the language or realize they were doing it in their classrooms already
- Question was asked: Was UDL already planned to be rolled out at the beginning of the year?
 - Allison responded that the first day of school she mentioned that we (teachers) would be learning more about UDL. All teachers are still learning and not all are experts. Project based assessments and PBL are connected to UDL
- Question- Does the district have a goal date for UDL to have it implemented across the board?
 - Allison-Does not have to happen every day. It is a goal for it to become more of an inline piece across the board that is available to teachers to use, a "menu option"
- Seems as though looking at UDL it is so broad that a teacher can feel as though they are already implementing UDL based off the chart provided in October minutes. How can you feel as though you are making a bigger impact using the chart? Might the school choose one or two elements to focus on instead of the whole chart?
 - Allison: Teacher feedback is important; district does not want teachers to feel as though they "check boxes"
- Use the chart to help students to reach their fullest learning potential. Through the UDL lens it may seem overwhelming, but continuing to use it, it will be easier to use it in practice and the outcome from students will show more ownership
- What are the next steps with UDL? Measurable goals?
 - Teachers in similar content in each building can work together to create UDL plans.
 - This will be an ongoing goal for district and Stony Brook

Priority Area #2

- Feasibility study; Architect firm will investigate how we are using our buildings, what we need help with, class sizes. They will provide information to the district and will eventually make plans for each building.
- Will potentially impact start times
- Cost was an issue last time start time changes were on the table for extra busses needed
- Other districts have kids 6-12 on the same bus am/pm
 - That would help with cost and number of runs.
 - Would only be feasible if they are on the same side of town
- Look at what are neighboring districts doing, sports play a role and timing
- Ideas from previous investigations into start time changes:
 - Lower/upper elem earlier, middle/HS would start 35 min later
- Why would class sizes affect start times?
 - Acton had 2 different buildings and are now combined. They have 4 locations for elementary, but 6 different schools across district.

- Elementary concern-if they came home first, there would not be childcare if the older siblings were not present to get them from the bus stop
- Running clubs concern- not being able to run them based on other events occurring with student/staff schedules. Academy start/end time was a concern raised by students who were talking with a teacher.
- Important for ALL parties to be included in the final decision including a survey for the community. Students should have a voice in the survey because they have a lot of after school activities.
- Has anyone thought about extending the school day?
 - Allison-all creative changes are on the table and district needs to work through logistics. Could discuss and take it into consideration—early releases; increased PD

Priority Area #3

- Giving kids tools for coping strategies to help them through life “toolbox” to refer back to. We were given the tools for mindfulness but not everyone feels as comfortable being allowed to stop and model mindfulness. Important as staff that we can do this when we see fit for a student, class etc.
- Staff feel open to take a risk of being open to a mindfulness technique
- Pause in instruction to mark a moment; concern raised to help students
- Start from the younger grades to ensure that the kids really learn how to USE the strategies
- Address anxious test takers, help where we can

Priority Area #4 (shared with group prior to meeting)

- Mindy shared some [Climate Roadmap Brainstorming](#)
- The KEY is we have to start SMALL and progress from there {Individuals attending stony >Classrooms>School
- She had a chance to walk around the building with our custodian, peruse the myriad of meeting minutes/websites/climate roadmap and attend an energy workshop since our last meeting. There are so many small changes that we as individuals can make. The table she made is linked above and includes information/questions/possible solutions of just some preliminary thoughts after discussions and reading. Getting the students involved and part of the solution is especially important since they need to be invested in their future.

Decisions:

- Seema Pusalkar will be the co-chair of the committee.
- We will look at priority #4 at our next meeting.

Adjourned: 3:15 pm