Davis School Council Minutes

January 19, 2018

Attendees: Beth Benoit, Kevin Finn, Ann Marie Bernardon, Carol Wait,

Kim Marino

Absent: Christie Martin, Stacy Katz

**Budget Update:**

When formulating the budget each school puts in their request to the district leadership team. Jon works with the finance committee and the school committee on each of the schools requests. Generally, each year the finance committee gives a 2% cost of living increase. When the need arises Jon has discussed with the finance committee why Davis needs a 3.5% cost of living increase to maintain what programs are in place. Davis only asks for 3.5% if it is really needed.

The town knows that if the Davis building project is completed and we need to have a tenth section for Kindergarten we will request the additional 1.5% for a total of 3.5%. At present, our tenth Kindergarten teacher is functioning as an interventionist.

Five years ago Kindergarten was 4 days per week. The teachers were .8 at that time. When Kindergarten went to 5 days per week the Educational Assistants did not go to full time at that time. At present, we have ten Educational Assistants in Kindergarten, eight of them are not full time. Beth has put forward in the budget that all Educational Assistants become full time. She explained that the Educational Assistants support the entire class. It is a benefit to students to have them stay all day for student support.

The Teaching Assistants assist children with challenging profiles. They are under the guidance of a special educator or reading specialist or an English language learning teacher.

In first and second grade the Educational Assistants and the Teaching Assistants support several classrooms, called clusters.

In the new building Beth would like to add an instructional coach position. This person will be a .5 at Davis and .5 at Lane. There will be a technology piece for this new position and the integration of English Language Arts. Matt Haynes, our Instructional Technologist, will continue to work at both Davis and Lane.

We are well equipped with technology devices so hopefully we will not go above the 3.5% to help pay for the .5 instructional coach. We will need an additional custodian once the new building is built.

Special Education costs are both school based and federally funded.

The addition is scheduled to be completed for the school year 2019-2020. Beth anticipates having ten Kindergarten classrooms and nine first and second grade classrooms. If the numbers require having ten classrooms at each grade level we would need to hire two additional Teaching Assistants and a .5 creative arts teacher.

**Integrated Preschool**

Is designed as an inclusive program for all children that are on an IEP. There may be additional families who want to send their preschoolers to the integrated program once it is housed at Davis School. Each year the preschool program decides if they will need to have three or four classrooms.

**Building Update**

The courtyard on the first floor will be open without a roof. Because there won’t be any sunlight it won’t be a good place to grow anything. The plan is to put down a soft floor that will absorb the elements. This space will be a place for gross motor play, water play and a motor break area for use by the whole building.

Beth confirmed with the architects that all the bump outs on the architectural drawings are windows.

There will be two additional classrooms on top of the orange pod with four in total. The estimated cost for the project was twelve million dollars. If it goes over budget adhoc will be needed for the cafeteria expansion.

The rooftop courtyard will have an open top and is designed as an outdoor classroom for approximately 20-23 kids.

The recreation department wants to keep two ball fields at Davis. The plan is to use the front ball field for additional parking spaces and relocate the front field to the back of the building.

**Upcoming Meetings**

Andrea Salipante will be discussing literacy data and where we are at the

March 2, 2018 council meeting.

Sarah Dorer will be discussing math data at the April 6, 2018 council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2018 when the School Improvement Plan will be discussed.