

School Council
Oliver Ames High School
Principal's Conference Room
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

In attendance: Nsa Koofreh, Abigail Sanford, Joyce Riad, Jackie Grant, Mary Visnauskus, Karen Corey, Kelly Cavanaugh, Cindy Boyce, Megan Campbell

3:03- Opening of meeting/ Call to order with request to approve minutes

3:05- Overview of the agenda

3:06-3:12- Beginning of introductions/ Round table style

3:13- Review of last session's minutes

3:14- Approval of minutes

3:15- Review of the School Councils Questions & Answers from DESE/ Specific attention given to four major areas of responsibility, particularly item #2. Overview led by principal Kelly Cavanaugh. Shares information about elements of the school improvement plans and initiatives here at OA

1. Shares DEIB group that will be starting, led by clinical intern with specialization in this area.
2. Active Minds chapter will be activated this year

Mrs. Cavanaugh updates us on Easton Public Schools School Council Assembly Process. Explanation of election process and ratios, protocols, etc.

3:18- 3:38- Mrs. Cavanaugh initiates review and discussion of OA Student Handbook streamlining updates:

1. Additions of bell schedules and district calendar, school map, course level descriptions, virtual high school, elevator pass policy, attendance (added language pertaining to oahsattendance@easton.k12.ma.us)
2. **Omissions:** department policies, school committee welcome outdated, community service guidelines, departmental and graduation honors, graduation ceremony attire, SAT subject tests, speaking contests, test days and testing, class disruptions (removed language indicating what the consequence will be, tobacco free policy (removed language indicating what the consequences will be, truancy (leaving school, leaving school grounds- removed language indicating what the consequences will be), senior "activities," class attendance (removed language indicating what the consequences will be), tardiness (removed language indicating what the consequence will be), COVID policies/procedures, gender specific language.
3. **Edit/Updated:** table of contents (changed structure of the handbook), x2 to Aspen, exterior doors (added language regarding food/drink delivery and students opening doors to visitors), class colors (added link to an article), graduation requirements (match Program of Studies language), GPA (match Program of Studies language), credits for courses taken outside of the school day, match Program of Studies language, all EPS policies were moved to the appendices, cell phone policy (deleted language regarding confiscating the phone), made font universal, updated school personnel info, absences (added language to include having attendance meetings), Student Council Bylaws (put as a link in the appendices), Honor Society Bylaws (put as a link to the

appendices), Tri-M Musical Honor Society Bylaws (put as a link in the appendices), Athletic Handbook (moved to appendices with a brief description and link to the entire Athletic Handbook)

3:40-3:46- Mrs. Cavanaugh shares and reviews the 2022-2023 Oliver Ames High School School Improvement Plan Goals

1. Increase opportunities for students to engage in activities that prepare them for post graduate plans
 - a. Discusses addition of credit bearing programs/courses: CPR, phlebotomy, CNA training, child care, architecture and engineering etc.
 - i. Mr. Fitzgerald as guidance point person
2. Address the mental health needs of our students and their access to interventions to support their growth
 - a. Active Minds Chapter
 - b. Guest speaker opportunities
 - c. Creation of SIT referral process
 - d. SIT data of interventions for general education students
3. Increase opportunities for the Oliver Ames community to identify and discuss around diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging
 - a. Establishment and meeting notes of DEIB Student Advisory Council, establishment and meeting notes from Equity Team, guest speaker opportunities, handbook review and revisions

3:47-3:54- Questions pertaining to DJ Henry Day and diversity, equity, and inclusion culture here at Oliver Ames

1. Mary Visnauskis: Shares the importance of making events relevant, keeping modern examples that students can locate in their own frame of reference. Plans for DJ Henry Day are discussed. Desire to create a nexus between DJ Henry and national dialogue. Collaborative work with Raising Multicultural Kids on future curriculum
2. Karen Corey: Shares suggestion for more action oriented community oriented opportunities (e.g. day of school-wide community service)
3. Mrs. Cavanaugh: Responds that plans for DJ Henry are ongoing between Mr. Auger, Ms. Coffman, and ADL. Different ideas are being explored.
4. Karen Corey: Shares experience of hearing from Dream Fund scholarships in Brockton
5. Cindy Boyce: Need to make experiences relevant and meaningful/ "Keeping the conversation going"- volunteers to contact a colleague who specializes in global D,E,I for resources
6. Abigail Sanford: Hard for students to engage in advisory periods (e.g. students tired, not talkative, hard to create community around complex issues)
7. Nsa Koofreh: Shares experience of being in advisory as the only African American student/ Talks about challenges regarding discussing diversity in advisory setting.
8. Student members share benefits and drawbacks of advisory, benefits and drawbacks of Tiger Block on Friday afternoon

3:55: Meeting adjourned