

Received by Town Clerk
January 16, 2024 10:52am

Swampscott Middle School
School Council Meeting
December 5, 2023

Meeting began at 8:30 a.m.

Members present: Jason Calichman, Emily Zotto, Monica Murphy, Miguel, Craig Averett, Heather Averett, Anne Quagrello, Sara Brogna, Kacy Jauron Rogers

Mr. Calichman spoke about wanting to prevent more budget cuts and discussed wanting to prevent students from going to private schools and keeping them at SMS. Emphasized that SMS offers specials/classes that other schools (private) do not i.e. Robotics, Tech Ed etc

Mr. Calichman emphasized that the School Council needs to be the voice for the budget! Can't come from him or Ms. Zotto.

Mr. Calichman, Ms. Zotto, and Ms. Murphy discussed the difficulties of this year's 5th grade class including, large class sizes, overwhelmed teachers, and 5th graders being the most vulnerable class as a result of having been disjointed for so many years because of Covid.

Discussed School Council being given a template that can be manipulated to target the cause and effects of last year's budget cuts that can then be distributed to friends/parents to send to town hall.

Mr. Calichman and Ms. Zotto explained that budget cuts are happening more and more because of increased cost of special ed. Discussed why we have to send students out of the district and what the criteria is. How can we make the focus that we want all students to succeed?

Ms. Zotto spoke on High School curriculum, admissions process, all classes at HS college prep level, advanced college prep. Anyone can take AP (advanced placement) class. Over 80% of students are taking at least 1 AP class throughout their HS career and many of our students are being accepted into amazing colleges.

Mr. Calichman emphasized that SMS students are doing exceptionally well. Students want to be in school, are attending school, and are staying after school for extra help/extracurriculars. Per DESE SMS is above the state average with MCAS/testing. This year's 8th grade class are exemplary leaders and are driven.

Lengthy discussion about what the school improvement plan is going to be? Discussed the survey- define the objective of the survey, what should we be asking and what questions do we ask to get the information we need, and what is the best structure of the survey. Discussed structure of survey being 3-5 questions, 1-4 scale, should it be anonymous, survey comes from the Main Office and is only sent to SMS families, offer open ended questions? Check all that apply questions? Is the survey geared towards parents only or parents answering for students? Can developmental/social/mental health issues be addressed in the survey? School council homework is to come up with potential questions for the survey.

Next steps- Send a document to the group to brainstorm questions. Include former questions from earlier (2017-2018) as a reference. Council members will come up with potential questions for the survey.

The meeting concluded at 9:56 AM.

