

Chilmark School Advisory Council

Draft Minutes 1.24.24

Present: Robyn Dori, Jessica Mason, Jackie Guzalak, Nelia Decker, Noli Taylor

Absent: Susan Stevens, Anne Mayhew, Jessica Seeman

1. Called to order at 8:15 Am. Last week's minutes will be read at the next meeting. Nolie will send them around for us to read.
2. Discussion about offering a chance for kids to play outside in the morning, with supervision, from about 7:30 -8:15. The WT School offers an indoor gym time at that time. Discussed PTO involvement, liability, logistics. Noli will chat with the PTO to follow up.
3. Discussion about the Land Acknowledgement that is currently read, posted and memorized by the Chilmark students. Robyn will rewrite it to reflect our Wampanoag land ties...but since the children have already memorized it, perhaps not changing it too much. It was proposed that we incorporate the rewriting of it more substantially and have it be part of the curriculum that Robyn and Ellen are already doing with the study of Wampanoag culture and history for next year's project.
4. Robyn proposed having a full day of professional development be focused on visiting other schools to study multi-level project based models. Richie Smith will be consulted, and Susan Stevens will weigh in. The need to have a firm understanding of how this model can work going forward for the Chilmark School is crucial as we transition to a new principal.
5. Discussion about how to configure a multi-level grade system. There are concerns about combining K with 1st grade, challenges with incorporating the pre-school into the K program, and how to manage school choice. It is important to understand the stresses to the system as new students are admitted during the summer and class sizes shift. The suggestion was to set up an enrollment committee: possibly Anne Mayhew, the new principal, a SAC member and a teacher.
6. Next week: discussion about the School Improvement Plan. Noli has been working on the school traditions piece.

Next meeting: January 31st at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelia Decker