

Student Voice in Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

November 14, 2022

Canton High School

Committee Attendees: Nylah Brown, Zach Farnsworth, Josh Patterson, Haidy Zhang, Jacob Jackson, Zack Patterson, Daman Gill, Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Trustee Lauren Christenson, Dr. Monica Merritt, Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs, and McKenna Pierce

1. Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Trustee Lauren Christenson.
2. The meeting notes from October 24, 2022 were reviewed. Moved by Zach Farnsworth. Seconded by Josh Patterson. The October 24, 2022 minutes were approved.
3. Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu was elected for another 6-year term. The committee cheered and congratulated Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu on her accomplishments. Alex Hawkins was not able to attend today's meeting. Introductions were made between the new Executive Assistant and note taker, McKenna Pierce, and the committee.
4. Application review process led by Trustee Lauren Christenson
 - a. We have received 66 applications, and have broken it into smaller groups to review and score each application. Last meeting, we put together a spreadsheet with a point system to decide which students are the best fit for the committee. Green=yes, yellow=maybe, red=lower on the scale/no.
 - b. We have student applications from every single school, including Starkweather.
 - c. Today, we are going to look at the list again and look at how to move forward with acceptance. Trustee Lauren Christenson suggested groups go around the room and talk about their applicants' applications and the judging process.
 - d. Zach Farnsworth says 2 students were moved from green-yellow up to green. Any students with red would be declined from the committee. Jacob Jackson's group did not want to decline any applications because the group wanted new committee members to learn skills even if they are not experienced for the position.
 - e. Zach Farnsworth followed up with suggesting his group wanted to encourage students who did not get accepted into the committee to apply again next year.
 - f. Trustee Lauren Christenson suggested that the committee could mentor younger students instead of declining their application.
 - g. If students don't get a vote, committee members agreed that students would be discouraged to come to the committee meetings.
 - h. Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs talked about the 31 middle schoolers and 37 high schoolers who applied. Her suggestion was that only green-green students can apply for leadership roles/ executive board positions. But, every applicant is encouraged to be a part of the committee. Nylah Brown says 68 students

attending the meetings would be overwhelming; the students with “red” in their application should be declined from the committee. Committee members agree students who are not actually members of the committee would be discouraged to attend meetings.

- i. Daman Gill says our goal should be to reject the lowest number of applicants.
- j. Zach Farnsworth said any students with red should receive a rejection letter, but should be encouraged to apply next year.
- k. Daman Gill compared 45 students to Congress and how it is manageable to run a group of that size to its full potential.
- l. Jacob Jackson talks about the subcommittees and mentorship possibilities.
- m. Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs talks about how Middle school students do not have as many opportunities as high schoolers to get involved, so it is important to get as many students involved as possible. She is advocating for all students to attend all 7 meetings. She believes all students should be able to vote, at least for year one until we figure out the logistics of this committee. Jacob Jackson agrees with Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs. We want all students to be involved to increase chances of having the most diverse committee. This could be the students’ first opportunity for involvement and we shouldn’t turn them down for it.
- n. Zach Farnsworth says he’s struggling with the idea of students not voting- if students attend the meeting, they should be allowed to vote. It’s the first year, so there is time for improvement.
- o. Nylah Brown suggests a Google Form or some formal kind of acceptance to send out to students to gauge a better attendance and overall committee rate.
- p. Daman Gill talks about the option to provide students time to “decommit.”
- q. Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu walks committee members through the motion process.
- r. Vote:
 - i. Accept all students as committee members and voting members: 11 voted yes, All in favor. Motion passes unanimously.
 1. Motioned by Josh Patterson seconded by Zach Farnsworth.
 - ii. Accept all members, voting positions are only for certain students:
 - iii. Reject students based on scores (lower scores such as red):
- s. Haidy Zhang Asked why we had an application process if all students were going to be accepted. Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu talked about this being a pilot year and we don’t want to restrict ourselves. We are looking for diversity and our opinions are changing after sharing our opinions with one another.
- t. Jacob Jackson says that when you weed out those certain types of students “What perspective should be weeded out?” How do you make those decisions because these students want to be involved?
- u. Josh Patterson asked how the meetings will be running moving forward. Secretary Anupam Chugh Sidhu talked about the formality of a board committee leading the meeting. Subgroup meetings will, ideally, have mentors present. Trustee Lauren Christenson says that “we” (the adults/staff) will still be here, but

they want it to be student-run at heart. The board is still unclear about what the Co-chair process will look like.

5. Next steps
 - a. How do we tell people they've been accepted? Which room should we switch to in order to fit more students?
 - b. Nylah Brown Suggests students to confirm their acceptance to officially be a part of the committee. Google Form or Email were the two suggestions. Josh Patterson suggested putting the news in the school announcements or 88.1 The Park.
 - c. The Rock Magazine has continued to reach out to SVA and wants to interview three committee members with Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs or Dr. Monica Merritt.
 - d. Some students haven't been receiving committee emails and will need to talk to Dr. Liz Vartanian-Gibbs after the meeting to get back on the email list.
 - e. Jacob Jackson and Nylah Brown will be attending the next board meeting on November 22.
6. Review RFP Process
 - a. Take this to the next meeting.
7. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. by Trustee Lauren Christenson.