

School Council Meeting
November 8, 2007

Members in Attendance: Jean Barrett, Phyllis Beck, Mary Bilunas, Mary Jane Caron, Kerry Cleary, Beth Devine, Robert Jackson, Don McIntosh, Mary Alise Manley, Christine Miceli, Patricia Modrich, Diana Rogier, Erica Yandow

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

The minutes from the October 18, 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

The Council continued its work on the School Improvement Plan

- Priorities
 - The Council agreed that the first priority should be reducing the number of students in each class by adding teaching staff.
 - The Council also agrees that with the addition of teaching staff, there will be an need for additional staffing in Guidance, Nurses office, Library and SPED
 - The council discussed the possibility of utilizing Public Library resources to assist at the Elementary School Library.

- The following ideas are being implemented to create a more Welcoming School Environment:
 - The Fourth 4th and 5th grades have created “Green Teams” to head up a recycling effort in the school
 - The question was raised as to whether we could recycle paper for cash
 - The Student Council for the 4th and 5th grades is being re-established
 - The 4th and 5th grades are participating in the morning announcements
 - The school is offering a variety of after school programs
 - The new layout of the front office and the use of the side window is receiving positive feedback from parents

- The following ideas were *suggested* to create a more Welcoming School Environment:
 - Parent Workshops
 - Beth would like suggestions for topics
 - An opportunity for the parents to meet and greet the new Assistant Principals
 - More use of the E-mail network for sending forms and information home to parents
 - Greeting children by name
 - A fun way to help children learn the layout of the school (a treasure or scavenger hunt was suggested)

- More specificity when requesting help from parents may encourage more parent participation (exact time slots needed and exact duties they will be helping with)
- The Completed Action Items were reviewed.
- The Three Year Plan was reviewed.
 - The need for a Foreign Language teacher was moved to the 2009/2010 column.
- The Foundation Budget was reviewed.
- School Improvement Plan will be presented to School Committee on November 20 at 7:00 p.m. School Council members are encouraged to attend.
- Superintendent Search Focus Group for PTO and School Councils will be held on November 29th at 7:00 p.m.