

Placentino Elementary School
School Improvement Council
February 24, 2010

Attendees:

Linda Weene, Principal
Terry Stewart, Assistant Principal
Michael Benadon, Grade 2 Parent
Alanna Bravman, Kindergarten Parent
Jennifer Golden, Grade 1 Parent
Evelyn Perry, Preschool Parent
Ken Robinson, Parent Representative
Officer Dave Gatchell, Community Representative
Heather Dalton, Guidance Counselor
Betsy Usherwood, Grade 2 Teacher
Ellen Ahern, Elementary School Librarian

1. The February meeting of the 2009-2010 Placentino School Council came to order at 3:45PM.
2. The minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved with Evelyn Perry abstaining.
3. The Council reviewed the 2010-2011 School Council sub-committees membership. Evelyn Perry requested that she be added to the Curriculum Goal sub-committee. This was gladly accepted.
4. Linda reviewed the information that she had concerning the FY2011 School Budget. She advised the Council that:
 - a. The Finance Committee and the School Committee are working on preparing information for budget consideration. Information from the Legislature and the Federal Government about funding in Massachusetts and the impact on Cities and Towns is still pending.
 - b. Brad Jackson, Holliston's Superintendent, will be updating the School Committee and the community at the School Committee meetings.
 - c. There will be a dollar gap between what the schools need and the funds available, but how that will be resolved is unknown.
 - d. The School Committee meetings are televised and available on cable thru both Verizon and Comcast. The District website has updated information on the meetings.
 - e. The support of the community will be essential as we move through this process.
5. Linda advised the Council that School Committee would be reviewing and voting on the new Strategic Plan at the meeting tomorrow evening, February 25th. The goals of this document will guide the school system for the next 5 years.
6. Alanna Bravman brought forth a serious concern that she had concerning some of the Valentine Cards that came home with her daughter. She had several cards with her that she shared with the Council. All of the cards had a violent theme – some with guns, laser crossbows, knives, etc. The Council agreed with Alanna's concern. Linda thanked her for bringing this to her

attention. Linda will add a line about “appropriate cards” in the letter that she will send before Valentine’s Day next year.

6. Linda updated the Council on activities at the Placentino School:

- a. Kindergarten Registration has been completed. This will be the class of 2023. Jen Golden asked if the Preschool Registration had increased. Linda responded, “Yes, we will need to return to 4 classes in the 5 day Preschool Program.
- b. The “Blankets for Haiti” program brought in 317 blankets that were sent to Partners in Health for distribution to those people so seriously affected by the earthquake. Linda explained that Linh Pond, one of our Placentino teachers, contacted the Peter Pan Bus Company, and they generously offered to ship the blankets to the foundation in New York City that actually sent the blankets to Haiti. The bus company and its employees went above and beyond with this donation. The blankets were driven by our maintenance staff on to the Framingham bus depot on February 17th. The driver and other Peter Pan employees assisted in loading the boxes onto the bus that was going to Hartford, CT. When the bus arrived in Hartford, employees had stayed overtime to wait for the bus and transfer all the boxes onto a special van that then delivered the blankets directly to the Foundation. Linda shared her sincere gratitude for all these people and their efforts with the Council.
- c. March Mail will begin on March 1st. The first week the children will focus on writing letters in Classroom. The 2nd and 3rd week the Second Graders will become the Placentino Postal Workers – picking up the mail at the designated “mail boxes,” sorting the mail by classroom and delivering the mail. Each Second Grade class will have a designated day to be the “Placentino Postal Service.” Stamps for this mail service will cost 10¢ each. The monies will be donated to the Holliston Food Pantry. This activity and the donation are an annual activity that the children look forward to at the school.

7. Linda explained that the main goal of today’s meeting was to divide into the Communication and Health, Safety, and Well Being sub-committees and begin to work on those 2 goals for the next School Council Action Plan. Evelyn Perry joined the Communication sub-committee. The sub-committees worked until 4:45PM. At that time each committee reported back to the Council one “Critical Issue and/or Strategy” that they had developed.

- a. The Communication Committee reported –
The school should establish a “Face book” page. The page would create “parents’ as a group which would be password protected. The “Face book” page would provide parents with easy access to updated information and could be linked to the Placentino
- b. The Health, Safety and Well Being Committee reported –
The school should focus on specific times/holidays to increase donations to the Food Pantry. “Talking points” should be provided to parents to explain the purpose behind community outreach projects.

8. The meeting adjourned at 5PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 24th at 3:45PM in the Placentino Library.