

School Improvement Council

March 18, 2009

Attendees:

Linda Weene, Principal
Terry Stewart, Assistant Principal
Jen Golden, K Parent
Mary Killelea, Grade 1 Parent
Maureen Gonsalves, Grade 2 Parent
Michael Benadon, Parent Representative
Heather Dalton, Guidance Counselor
Ellen Ahern, Placentino School Librarian
Betsy Usherwood, Grade 2 Teacher
David Gatchell, Community Representative

1. The meeting came to order at 3:50PM. Dawn Nebrosky was absent. Mary Killelea arrived after the meeting began.
2. The Council approved the January 22nd and the February 11th minutes were unanimously by the Council members. Dave Gatchell and Maureen Gonsalves abstained.
3. Linda updated the Council on the FY10 Budget Process. She explained that the Federal Stimulus Package is a significant part of the planning this year. The Superintendent is working with the Finance Committee to hold off on any final decisions on the FY10 Budget until the "Stimulus" monies are made public. At this time, there is a 1.9 million dollar gap between the Finance Committee budget for the schools and the needs of the school system. With the inclusion of the "stimulus" monies that gap could be closed to within \$500,000 to \$700,000. The Superintendent is compiling a list that would reflect the areas that would be impacted by reducing the budget by these amounts. The reductions would affect all levels of the school system. The Superintendent will be detailing as much information as he has available at the School Committee Meeting on March 19th. Erica Plunkett, School Committee Member, writes an email after each School Committee Meeting. Linda offered to email Erica with the email addresses of any Council member who would like to receive Erica's updates. Michael and Dave requested that their email addresses be given to Erica Plunkett. Linda also reminded the Council that the School Committee meetings are televised and are rerun on Tuesdays and Saturdays. All of the Superintendent's presentations to the School Committee are available on the District website.
4. Linda explained that the "Backpack Express" protocol was in place. All notices are now available on the website and paper notices will no longer be going home in backpacks. The

Superintendent has made it very clear that he fully supports this program and is committed to ensuring that this process is in place in every school. The schools are working to keep track of any and all families who do not have computer access to provide them with paper notices.

5. Linda reminded the Council members that it was time for "March Mail" at Placentino. The program is changing this year. The first week the teachers will work with their classes on letter writing, and the next two weeks the children will write to each other. The teachers will work across grades to have all of the children write at least one letter to another child at Placentino. This will ensure that all children will write and receive at least one letter. As we have done in past years, all of the money collected for "stamps" will be donated to the Holliston Food Pantry.
6. The Council reviewed the ideas generated at the February meeting for inclusion in the 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan. It was decided to break into 2 sub-committees to begin to frame the new School Improvement Plan. The Council members divided into 2 groups: Health, Safety and Well Being and Communication.
7. Prior to beginning their sub-committee work, Linda reminded the Council of the "net conference" being offered by the "Safe Rides to School" program. The conference is on March 19th at 10AM. Linda provided the members with a copy of the email indicating the website and password to access the "net conference."
8. After working in their individual sub-committees, the Council members voted to adjourn at 4:45PM. The next Council meeting is April 15th at 3:45PM in the Placentino Library.