

School Improvement Council  
Minutes  
December 17, 2008

Attendees:

Linda Weene, Principal  
Terry Stewart, Assistant Principal  
Dawn Neborsky, PreK Parent  
Maureen Gonsalves, Grade 2 Parent  
Michael Benadon, Parent  
Betsy Usherwood, Grade 2 Teacher  
Heather Dalton, Guidance Counselor  
Ellen Ahern, Placentino School Librarian

1. The meeting came to order at 3:50PM. Mary Killelea, Jen Golden, and David Gatchell were absent.
2. Linda introduced Michael Benadon to the Council. Michael is the newly elected parent who will participate in Council meetings for this year.
3. The minutes were reviewed by the Council. Maureen reminded the Council that we had discussed having the School Nurse look at reviewing the policy/protocol around parents keeping children home until they were fever free for 24 hours. This will be added to the minutes. The November 19<sup>th</sup> minutes were unanimously approved as amended. by the Council.
4. Linda updated the Council on the FY10 Budget process. There is concern about the possibility of further cuts from State Aid, and a serious decrease in State Aid to cities and towns for next year.
5. Linda advised the Council to check the District website for updates by the Superintendent on any presentations that focus on the budget and District issues.
6. Maureen Gonsalves advised the Council that the HEPO "boxtop" collection will result in a \$1000 check coming to HEPO. All boxtops that are placed in the collection are worth 10¢ when redeemed.
7. Dawn Neborsky asked about the PreK and K tuition. Linda explained that those monies go into the school budget and not just to the individual programs. The tuition actually covers the cost of running the programs with little left over to use elsewhere.
8. Maureen and Dawn added that the Placentino PreSchool Programs are becoming very popular in town and that more parents are opting for 3 years of PreK -- beginning at 2.9 or 2.10 years of age.
9. At 4PM the Miller School Council joined with the Placentino School Council to discuss issues that may crossover to the School Improvement Plans of both schools. Areas of discussion focused on:
  1. Looking at Differentiated Instruction in all content areas
  2. Technology – particularly in the Envision Math Program
  3. the RTI/SAT process
  4. Bullying – School Environment
  5. Respectful School Culture

6. *Balanced Literacy*
7. *Scope and Sequence of the Envision Math Program*
8. *Community Outreach – possibly pairing classes between Miller and Placentino*
9. *A common Reading/Writing goal*
10. *Writing across the grades - Grade 4 writes to Grade 2*
11. *Having the Unified Arts teachers work in a common theme across all the classrooms*
12. *Positive Behavior Intervention Support Program*
13. *Across the schools – older children could role play for the younger children to model inappropriate behavior and the appropriate behavior.*
14. *Both schools use a "drop box" for issues – this would be anonymous*
15. *Peer mentoring across the schools*
16. *Focus on fitness and nutrition – Programs like "Fit and Lit"*
17. *No food/treats for school birthday celebrations – options*
18. *Unwrapping Standards across grade levels – PreK-5*

*During this time there was a lengthy discussion on "bullying" and integrating this topic into writing activities and modeling positive behavior.*

*There was also a discussion on nutrition and the lunch menu. Members of both Councils were advised to refer their concerns to Holly Everett as the Holliston Schools Food Director.*

*The two Councils also discussed the importance of keeping children home for 24 hours to be sure that they were fever free to ensure that they are not "contagious." This will be discussed with the School Nurse to review the policies/protocols around this issue.*

10. *The meeting adjourned at 4:50PM.*

11. *The next scheduled meeting is at 3:45PM on January 21, 2009 in the Placentino School Library.*