

Green Meadow School Council
January 3,2005 Minutes

Present Members: Bernadette McLaughlin, Fred Chi, Nance Messina, Shirley DuFour, Timothy Sullivan, Priscilla Cotter, John Mason, Jessica Nelson.

Attending: Cecelia Small, Hanne Mully

Absent: Kristen Colliton.

I: Public input: No public present

II: Minutes Review (December):

Voted in - minor change changed “torturing” to “tutoring” in TAP section.

III: Current Status:

1. School Council eligibility policy: Town’s policy is stricter than State’s policy. Will discuss after Current Status.
2. Jessica Nelson resigned as of tonight due to childcare needs. Her husband took second job working Monday nights. This will alter balance of parents/community members etc.
3. February 7th School Council meeting will be joint meeting with Fowler School Council. Brainstorming session in regard to Fowler’s wish to start their school day earlier.
4. TAP program begins on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. The aim is to improve selected children’s scores on MCAS. Fifteen 3rd graders were invited to attend this small group tutoring session. Eleven have signed up. Meets from 3:05-4:05 and is taught by Deb Holly. 3rd graders were chosen who had either academic and/or self-confidence issues. Nance Messina explained how the children were chosen. 3rd grade teachers got together and each recommended two or three students who were struggling. Mrs. McLaughlin explained that TAP is closed at this point. Must keep class size small since it is a tutoring session not a class. Fred Chi had a question regarding parents who might request that their child be put in the program; Mrs. McLaughlin reiterated that TAP was closed. She discussed the MCAS help binder that she is assembling. Problems available from previous MCS tests can be used to practice. She’ll ask for a commitment from parents who are interested because it has to be a school/home effort. There will likely be about 100 pages of copied material and will only be available to parents who are willing to work with the children at home. She suggested that the binder might be a good option for parents who are interested in improving their children’s MCAS scores.
5. Math MCAS: The books that were purchased and intended to be aligned with MCAS were ordered six months too early and therefore were not the books that we’d intended to order. The company replaced the incorrect textbooks with the new ones.
6. Tsunami devastation: Mrs. McLaughlin asked parent Art Illman (who has done the UNICEF collection each fall) if he would be willing to take care of donations toward tsunami relief. He agreed. Casual for a cause will be used towards that end as well as donations from parents and staff. President Bush and Governor Romney asked that flags be at half-mast for 5 days. Mrs. McLaughlin will put information about donations in next newsletter.

IV: School Council Legislation/Maynard School Committee Policy:

The Council has been looking at current policy to address the balance of Parents/Staff and Community members. Fred Chi read the Maynard policy and as of right now we need to add a teacher or lose a parent. Mrs. McLaughlin will look at the options.

V: Report from Technology Committee-Tim Sullivan:

Tim Sullivan reported that Kathleen from EdTech was very thorough and impressive. She gave a complete assessment of the district's current technology level and compared it with the State's guidelines. He passed around the Technology Committee's agenda, subcommittee lists and the EdTech reports. Massachusetts's standards for per pupil expenditure are \$125/student; Maynard came in at \$84/student. She explained that the district's current technology is mainly circa 1991. The plan calls for definitive objectives to be met by summer 2005. Kathleen had found a huge lack of leadership in the Technology area. Tim went over the EdTech reports explaining where each school fell in terms of level of Technology. Highest level for any school was "developing".

Nance Messina asked who was getting all the information from EdTech in as much as there is no leadership at the present time. Tim answered, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Daniel Mayer.

Mrs. McLaughlin expressed her surprise that Fowler was not even in great shape, that while they're in better shape than Green Meadow they are far behind where one would expect them to be.

Tim Sullivan pointed out that an overall plan was the largest goal. The committee will create a plan to bring the whole district up to speed and to maintain it.

Mrs. McLaughlin mentioned that Kate Krasinski is the teacher representative from Green Meadow.

Tim Sullivan suggested that he create a one-page summary each month to keep the Council updated. Mrs. McLaughlin agreed.

VI: Review SIP:

Begin review of School Improvement Plan. We can create a plan on how to proceed tonight and begin at a future meeting. After our June meeting we'll need to present the plan to the School Committee. We'll use the current SIP adding new indicators. We agreed to start with School Safety and Improving District Communication in March.

Reminder: Next meeting on February 7th will be with the Fowler School Council. We will meet at Green Meadow. The Council discussed how to deal with the information that the Fowler Council presents. It was pointed out that an agenda was important. Mrs. McLaughlin will speak with Mr. Brooks about creating an agenda. She reiterated that notifying parents of any change would need to be done well in advance. Parents who both work outside the home would need plenty of time to arrange childcare.