

Green Meadow School Council

May 2, 2005, 6:30-8:00

Minutes

Present members:

Bernadette McLaughlin, Fred Chi, Kristen Richardson, Nancy Messina, Priscilla Cotter, Kieran Joshi, Hanne Mully

Attending:

Marie Kutlowski

Minutes: Hanne Mully

1. Minutes Review (April):

Voted as is (no changes)

2. Current Status:

- a. Kristen Richardson is expecting and is due in September. She will take a one-year maternity leave.
- b. Kieran Josh was appointed to be a GMS council community member
- c. Teacher appreciation week. Mrs. McLaughlin mentioned that teachers enjoy getting appreciation notes. She also said that the PTO at GMS is a phenomenal group. The PTO is organizing a teacher/staff appreciation lunch on Early Release day Friday, May 6. Teachers will work on 2005-2006 placements after the luncheon.
- d. End-of-the-year calendar will go out next week. The last few weeks of school are busy and the calendar will help families stay on track.
- e. The 1-hour MCAS test for 3rd graders has been scheduled for May 16th. There will be no Morning Meeting with Mrs. Bergner on this day. Results from the MCAS will not be returned from the State.
- f. Placement for 2005-2006. Mrs. McLaughlin said the new placement process is working very well. The process has decreased the number of long letters from parents. Mrs. McLaughlin has received only 5 letters from parents with requests for next year. The Principal has had about 15-18 quick parent appointments as well. The requests have been more geared towards "enemies put apart" than "friends put together". Mrs. McLaughlin has told parents she cannot guarantee anything as of now. Class lists will be posted in mid-August.
One 2nd grade teacher has to move to a different grade level.
- g. Budget. Mark Masterson is having coffee get-togethers in Maynard. Fred Chi said two more has been scheduled. A mix of 10-20 people attend each coffee-get-together. Mark Masterson starts out with a 30-minute presentation. Questions follow. There is a School Committee member present at each coffee event. Fred Chi said that many people seem to have made up their mind prior to attending the events. It is a worthwhile cause but it may not necessarily change people's minds.
Mrs. McLaughlin said School Committee meetings have been very heated lately. Last meeting was focused on sports such as hockey, cheerleading, and golf. User-fee was discussed as an option. The "cut-list" is somewhat fluid at the moment and many items may be affected.
The Maynard town meeting at Fowler will be on May 16th at 7 p.m.
The Maynard town meeting (in town) will be on May 17th at 7 p.m. People will vote at town meeting whether they will vote for an override election or not. If the vote is in favor, the override election will be in June.

Mrs. McLaughlin said that staff at GM is phenomenal during the budget crisis as people still focus, primarily, on children at GMS.

People who are non-tenured have been given pink slips and several of those people are looking for jobs elsewhere.

3. School Improvement Plan:

As of tonight, the date is unknown for when the school committee will review and approve the GMS plan.

I. Student/Staff Safety:

Changes/no changes:

1.a unchanged

1.b change to: To identify professional development needs in regards to crisis management

1.c unchanged

1.d unchanged

1.e unchanged

2. to existing test add “Upgrade locking system and fire alarm.”

3. add: “Train all staff appropriately with drill for crisis procedures in September.”

II. Ensure a respectful, safe, [...] promote optimum learning:

Changes/no changes:

1.a unchanged

1.b use lowercase “i” towards the end of the sentence; “[...] in the school.”

1.c change to: “Substitute teachers and monitors are trained twice a year to reinforce school policies.”

1.d change to: “There is a variety of whole school and

1.e change to: “Morning Meetings conducted to communicate and reinforce positive behavior”

1.f add an “and” between Chinese Song Zhu and Kindergarten Around The World

1.g change to: “There are several programs to celebrate student achievements such as Math night, Math Wizard, spelling Bee, etc.”

2.a no changes

2.b no changes

3. delete sentence completely

III. Enhance District Communication

Changes/no changes:

1.a do “return” after this item

1.b no changes

1.c no changes

3. no changes

4. no changes

IV. Parent/Community Involvement

Changes/no changes:

1.a no changes

1. b no changes

1.c do “return” after this item

1.d no changes

1.e do “return” after this item

1.f no changes

1.g no changes

1.h (add): Other events

2.a no changes

2. b no changes

2.c (add): “Parent/community volunteers help out in the office

3.a no changes

3. b no changes

V. Curriculum. Instruction. Assessment

Changes/no changes:

1. add to existing text: “..distributed in the fall at Open House” AND remove “years” in next column

3. change to: “Summer reading lists (K-3) distributed with June report card” AND remove “years” in next column

4. add to the end of existing text: “. .issues such as assessments”

5. change to: “Early release days to develop and implement units consistent with state standards”

6. change to: “Some resources/ materials were purchased with [...] reviewed. The resources and materials will support the curriculum”

Next meeting (June): Go through the rest of the School Improvement Plan and review Mrs. McLaughlin’s progress report.