

Elmwood School Council Meeting

Minutes

October 4, 2011

The meeting began shortly after 3:00 in the Elmwood Conference Room. The delayed start was the result of an evacuation of all Elmwood students and staff due to an unknown burning odor. After a period of time, the firefighters discovered the odor was caused by a light ballast that had burned and scorched the light fixture. School Council members who observed the end of the evacuation praised students, teachers and staff for the calm and orderly transition to buses...

Present, Maureen Belger, Cissy Coutinho, Heather Crowley, Elizabeth Guerra, David Ljungberg, Alexis Miller, Lesley Nelson, Ilene Silver, and Cate Waldeck,

- After a brief discussion of the evacuation, members introduced themselves to one another
 - Maureen Belger and Cate Waldeck – Grade 2 Parent Representatives
 - Alexis Miller and Elizabeth Guerra – Grade 3 Parent Representatives
 - Amy Hamwey and Meaghan Winters – Grade 2 Teachers
 - Dena O’Shaughnessy – Grade 3 Teacher
 - Cissy Coutinho/Heather Crowley – Special Education shared position
 - Lesley Nelson – Community Representative
 - Ilene Silver – School Principal
- Email addresses were shared; dates had already been distributed via email
- Elizabeth Guerra volunteered to be Elmwood’s School Council Co-Chair this year.
- Parent members of the Council and Ilene Silver will rotate taking notes of each meeting.
- Reviewed mission of School Council—improved student learning
 - Advisory group to the Principal
 - Makes recommendations regarding budget
 - Assists in the creation of a data driven Improvement Plan
- Reviewed past School Improvement Plan, as well as the 2011-2012 Plan:
 - Goal Title: Informed Decision Making Through Data Collection
 - The goal for 2010-2011 was accomplished. A watch list was created in the fall based upon students who scored in the fifth stanine or lower in the GRADE. These students were tracked throughout the year and many given additional support. through Response to Intervention.
 - The current School Improvement Plan has three goals. that are consistent across the three elementary schools:
 - Goal 1:- Consistent Literacy Instruction and Assessment will Improve Student Achievement
 - Goal 2 - Consistent Instruction and Assessment in Mathematics will Lead to Improved Student Understanding and Achievement
 - Goal 3 - We will improve consistency in our ability to create respectful school environments for our elementary students
- MCAS Discussion
 - Grade 3 did very well on both ELA and Math and exceeded AYP in both.
 - The Special Education subgroup, which had not made AYP for two years in English Language Arts, accomplished that goal.
 - Elmwood School’s third grade students had the 4th highest percentage of students scoring in the Proficient and Advanced categories in ELA in the state.
- Preliminary Budget Discussion
 - Ilene Silver explained that the budget process was beginning and that once again funding would be tight due to the budgetary climate in the state and country.

- Based upon preliminary enrollment projections there will be 12 second grade classes and 11 third grade ones, due to a reduction of approximately 40 students. Currently there are 11 second grade classes and 13 third grade ones.
- The enrollment is estimated to decrease by 40 students, bringing the total enrollment of Elmwood School to under 500 students—a first in over 20 years.

The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1 at 2:45 in the Elmwood Conference Room. Members of the public are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ilene S. Silver.