

Elmwood School Council Meeting
Minutes
September 28, 2010

The meeting began at 2:45 in the Elmwood Conference Room.

Present, Cissy Coutinho, Heather Crowley, Pat DiCostanza, Anna Dixon, Elizabeth Guerra, David Ljungberg, Alexis Miller, Donna Orellana, Ilene Silver

Absent: Diane Bird, Kathy Laflash

- Members introduced themselves to one another
 - Alexis Miller and Elizabeth Guerra – Grade 2 Parents
 - Donna Orellana and Diane Bird – Grade 3 Parents
 - Anna Dixon and Laura O’Malley – Grade 2 Teachers
 - Pat DiCostanza – Grade 3 Teacher
 - Cissy Coutinho/Heather Crowley – Special Education shared position
 - Kathy Laflash – Community Representative
 - Ilene Silver – School Principal
- Meeting dates and email addresses were disseminated.
- Donna Orellana 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
 - Creates data driven Improvement Plan
- Reviewed past School Improvement Plan, as well as the 2010-2011 Plan:
 - Summer Passports for Reading – Over 50 percent of second and third graders participated in the program. Comments were very positive from parents and community members.
 - Enhanced Kenyan Connection – Participation was limited—but those participating found it to be an excellent learning experience. This will continue based upon teacher preference in the future, but is no longer a component of the School Improvement Plan.
 - Data Driven Assessments – This goal 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. MCAS scores were compared to the GRADE and DRA results.
- MCAS Discussion
 - Grade 3 as a whole did very well on both ELA and Math and exceeded AYP
 - The Special Education subgroup did not make Annual Yearly Progress in ELA.
 - 76% were proficient or proficient plus, but AYP required 90.2% to achieve proficiency.
 - As a result, the School Council will need to revise the School Improvement Plan to address this issue.
- 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.

Next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12 at 2:45 in the Elmwood Conference Room. Members of the public are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ilene S. Silver.