

Elmwood School Council Meeting
Minutes
October 12, 2010

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

Present, Diane Bird, Heather Crowley, Pat DiCostanza, Anna Dixon, Elizabeth Guerra, Kathy Laflash, David Ljungberg, Alexis Miller, Donna Orellana, Ilene Silver

Absent: None

- Minutes from the September 28, 2010 meeting were accepted as written.
- Council members were updated on recent school events which included: DEAR Day—Team up with a Good Book, GRADE testing, and the HPTA sponsored Techsploration for third grade students.
- Discussed the need to include a bullying section in the Elmwood Parent-Student Handbook. Samples of two were discussed. It was decided to include information taken directly from the newly passed Massachusetts statute. Once the District Bullying Plan is approved early next year, we will work on one that adheres to it—but specifically addresses students in grades two and three.
 - Assistant Principal Dave Ljungberg defined bullying as “the repeated imbalance of power.” He noted four forms of bullying: verbal, cyber, physical, and a threat or future threat.
- Discussed revisions to be made to the current School Improvement Plan based upon Elmwood School’s MCAS AYP results in ELA for the special education subgroup. This revision will include recommendations made by Dr. Ilda King, the District’s reading consultant.
- Council members were updated on the preliminary budget:
 - Based upon current enrollment information, Mrs. Silver will be recommending that there be 11 second grade sections and 13 third grade ones. This is a reduction of one general education classroom at Elmwood School.
 - Council members expressed concern about how materials will be divided between three K-5 schools if redistricting takes place. Concerns that there will be insufficient library books for the different levels, as well as the need for more science kits at grade 3. They are hopeful that the School Committee and Superintendent recognize these needs and that they are included in the budget for the Fruit Street school.

Next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 2:45 in the Elmwood Conference Room. Members of the public are welcome.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Ilene S. Silver.