

White Brook Middle School
200 Park St.
Easthampton, MA 01027

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 10, 2008

Present: Julie Salzman, Marsha Messer, Jacquelyn Ouellette, Sue Welson, Alaska Pinard, Debra Lusnia, Dave Doele, Dan Zdonek, Kevin Zdonek, Cindy Borowski, Tracy Poulin. From the elementary councils: Katy Berube, Kim Stillwell, Jared Colenback, Amy Booker, Wendy Sigda, Michelle Raskewitz, Karen Lowman

Absent: Shelley Wilton, Ginnie Lapointe, Michelle Lucier-LaZuk, Kathie Stewart, Cheri Pyser, Patty Turcotte, Gerry Raucher, Sharon Kimble, Julie Blum, Missy Richardson, Carolyn Anderson, Sue Dadmun, Deirdre Morrissey, Noreen Nardi, Deb Poulin

Agenda:

I. Updates:

Mar. 14	Electric Company assemblies were held for grade 5
Mar. 28	Parent Teacher Conferences
Mar. 24-Apr. 4	ELA MCAS grades 5-8 are IN THE MAIL
Ap. 1	EHS Presentation to 8th grade
Ap. 3	8th graders visit to EHS + CTech: picked course
Ap. 4	Fun Friday Dance - Go Green Dance went well (TIO)
Ap. 10	School Council

II. Up Coming:

Ap. 11	Library Fundraiser Parent Dance at Pulaski Club
Ap. 17	Fine Arts Showcase
April 21-25	Spring Vacation
May 5	Rotation 6 begins
May 9	Interim Grades close
May 12-15	MCAS Math Test/Gr.5-8
May 17	"Toy Challenge" Finals in VA
May 19-20	MCAS Science Test/Gr. 5 & 8
May 27-30	Terra Nova Testing Gr. 5 & 6
May 28	Spring Choral Evening Concert
May 29	School Performance of Choral Concert
May 29	Scholar Leader Dinner
May 29	Evening Book Fair
May 30	Fun Friday/Dance - School Council Sponsor

III. NELMS Report and S.I.T.: The report was reviewed including suggestions: increase parent involvement, change in schedule, reach the higher end learner.

Discussion revolved around changes to the curriculum, exploratories and professional development for math and special education.

Caution was expressed about following trends and about being realistic. Focus on what can be done now in 2-3 steps.

Schedules discussion: increased learning time, physical education throughout the year, team

planning time by subject and team, restrictive activity period, lengthen the school day by 15 minutes (?), don't mix grades, extend arts throughout the year, interdisciplinary, rotating A/B day 1,2,3,4.

IV. Budget for 2009: Julie reviewed the budget as it is at this point. The 3rd set of cuts, especially, is very hard-hitting, special education takes a huge part of the budget; based on tonight's School Committee meeting, write the City Council; get in contact with NEAT, a Northampton group to address government about helping with special education costs.

V. General Discussion/Round Table

Idea for next year: "Bring Parent to School Day" for the 5th graders

We need to reach out for everyone to help at the Ice Cream Social and Fun Friday which are both sponsored by the School Council

We need to:

- 1) band parents together to problem solve and brainstorm
- 2) make a difference on the state level: make a fuss and get attention
- 3) make writing points for letter writing campaign: get out to all city councils, put out through all principals and get to the parents

VI. Meeting adjourned