

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

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: January 10, 2008

Present: Kathie Stewart, Tracy Poulin, Julie Salzman, Dan Zdonek, Kevin Zdonek, Sue Dadmun, Deirdre Morrissey, Gerry Raucher, Patty Turcotte, Carolyn Anderson, Debra Lusnia, Cindy Borowski, Sue Welson, Dave Doele, Alaska Pinard

Absent: Shelley Wilton, Cheri Pysler, Jacquelyn Ouellette, Marsha Messer, Missy Richardson, Deb Poulin, Noreen Nari, Sharon Kimble

Agenda:

I. Updates:

- A. Fall book fair: very successful
- B. Heritage Potluck was great, very crowded and lots of tasty food. Also, had slideshows of student projects and work made for classes. However, very few stayed for the visiting author. Maybe we should keep the potluck by itself and have 5th graders come to a morning author program.
- C. Fun Friday/Dance: went well
- D. Professional 1/2 Day: was curricular work with the high school
- E. Holiday concerts were great
- F. Holiday luncheon: very successful despite a new kitchen staff. Had many more requests for reservations than we could seat.
- G. In-school concerts: For the first time, band and chorus performed a combined program for the school. It was quite professional and was an excellent program.
- H. Apple night: The new Apple Store at Ingleside had a first-time program in which many of our students participated. Students presented their work to parents, teachers, and the public. They hope to do it again in the spring.

II. Upcoming:

- A. January 11: John Elder Robison assembly about his life with autism. There will be two assemblies.
- B. February 15: The next dance will be sponsored by the library group. The DJ will be John Lennon!
- C. January 18: 2nd quarter closes
- D. January 23: Rotation 4 starts unless there is a snow day.
- E. January 25: Professional day (full): Morning: Enduring Understandings, Afternoon: standards based planning.
- F. January 22-24: Career Week: (3 days)
- G. January 28: Report Cards
- H. January 30: Midsummer's Night Dream: Spring picture sales made so much money that it was able to fund the program. There will be two performances.
 - I. February 5: 1/2 Professional Day (was changed from the 4th)
- J. February 7: 100th day of school. The BEAR team will be doing an interdisciplinary community service program that day. They will do something with cards for the troops so if you know of any specific addresses, let them know.
- K. February 15: Fun Friday/Dance
- L. February 18-22: No school
- M. February 28: School Council
- N. February 29: Interim Grades Close
- O. March 4: Professional Day

III. Introductions and student report

- A. Kevin's update: fundraising for their team (Smencils) to raise money for the Heifer Project; Thanksgiving fruit cups his team made; enjoyed the Heritage Potluck supper.
- B. Alaska report: nothing right now

IV. After-School Programming

- A. Numbers are light so it may not take place. Maybe in the spring but it is pretty expensive.
- B. We will try to present it to 4th grade parents in the spring so the program will be for 5th graders next year.

V. Budget

- A. Requested a librarian and for after school program busing
- B. Funds will be very limited. There may be cuts.
- C. Pool meeting Jan. 31: please go if you have feelings about it. If it does not reopen soon, it never will.
- D. Julie will ask for support at the budget meetings when the time comes. We will need to lobby for our cause.

VI. NELMS Report

It came back but had a few errors which will be corrected. When that is done, we will get a copy. It was extremely positive for the most part, particularly about our students feeling safe, protected, and nurtured. A committee will now be established to deal with recommendations. It will be chaired by an outside person but will need a couple of council, too. There will also be others included (parents, teachers, students, etc.) to work on long-range goals. We hope to get the completed corrected report by the end of January and hope to have the group formed by then.

VII. Sue: We received donations of computers from Social Security Administration and need to send them a letter of thanks. Julie Terrones passed away shortly after Thanksgiving. We are using an auction format to create an award in her honor and intend to hold a memorial service in the spring in our Memory Garden. (Julie explained the Memory Garden to the group.)

VIII. Cindy: To embrace the School Committee members, we are going to invite them all here to meet with us at our February 28th meeting. We will move the meeting to a larger space.

IX. Round Table:

- A. Dave: Responsive Designs training his team had has been very successful. The team has found group and paired work to be much better as a result of the training and has had less classroom problems as a result, They are looking for grants to extend the training into the upper grades because it is an expensive training. The Circle Meetings from the training have been great and the kids love it. The goal is to have the kids run the meetings. Sue: having the 7-8 teachers attend will help the transition for next year. She was impressed with the kids introducing themselves to each other. It's a positive way to approach community-building and learning to be respectful of each other, how to ask questions, and to improve their basic conversation skills. It is developing social interactions.
- B. Julie: AYP (Adequately Yearly Progress) met yesterday. Last year the SPED students still did not get high enough (though all others improved) so we are doing extra math. Julie explained the process for scoring to us. We are better but still have a way to go. There is now a middle school rep on the state council to help explain the middle grades. Sue: We need people to know the great things that the middle school is doing since many do not understand this level or why we do what we do. General discussion of the middle school years was held.
- C. Carolyn: talked with her kids about teaming and safety, etc. and her kids spoke very favorably towards WBMS. Also, she will need to leave early for awhile and would appreciate it if we could keep meetings moving along.
- D. Tracy: Is involved with thinking about remixing students after the 6th grade. Also, the Booster Group is working on a trip to NY. Numbers at the meeting were small but they will plan a trip anyway.
- E. Deb: Is interested in serving on the group Julie needs.
- F. Gerry: Is also interested in serving on that group. Also, she complemented the staff on the support her son received after losing his grandmother recently.
- G. Kathie: Explained the school website and asked that the committee look at it in depth.
- H. Patty: Reminder about the elementary program being held at WBMS on Friday.
- I. All others: passed