

Winthrop Elementary School Site Council

Wednesday, December 8, 2010
2:45-4:00

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Bryna Davis, Ursula Boyle, Kate Calias, Gary Romano, Jennifer O'Brien-Michaud, Melanie Wilcox, and Michelle Dell Isola

Members absent: Tim Donnelly

Public members present:

1. Review and approval of Minutes outstanding (June 10, 2010 & October 13, 2010)

Minutes were individually reviewed for both June 10, 2010 & October 13, 2010. Michelle Dell Isola made a motion to approve the minutes. Kate Calias seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Gary Romano, community representative introduced himself to the council.

2. Progress for 2010-2011 School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Discussed the Foss Science program adopted by the district. Discussed the inquiry based nature of the program and its implementation. The council had a discussion regarding creating two subcommittees one for gathering information about acquiring the teachers' manuals for each of the Foss Science kits for grades K-5 and a second subcommittee to research and create a list including the ordering information and cost for increasing the Winthrop science guided reading library to acquire books to go along with each of the Foss Science kits at each grade level K-5 at grade level, above and below grade level readers.

We discussed the data teamwork being done at the school looking at data from MCAS and district-wide assessments areas of need and addressing those needs as a school. One area of need we are working on is test taking strategies and a second area of need is writing specifically in topic

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Meeting Minutes Continued

development. We have MCAS extra help groups meeting and working on specific student areas of need as well.

Gary Romano made a motion that the site council write a recommendation paper regarding the school needs. Kate Calias seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Gary Romano will draft the proposal and share with rest of the council.

The school is working on setting up training on writing, sharing best practices and having consistency in addressing and scoring writing. We discussed communication opportunities and sharing exemplars along with having some parent peer communication opportunities to share what the MCAS test looks like, examples being able to inform and advocate. Discussion was also on possibility of the test highlighting either a grade or subject area to share information.

Gary Romano made a motion to create a PowerPoint co-written by staff and parents to email out with information to the community the life successes of reading and writing, what the tests look like with exemplars of written responses and simple actions to take. Michelle Dell Isola seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A working subcommittee meeting was set up for 1/12/11.

3. Initial discussion for 2011-2012 SIP

We will come prepared to discuss building needs and possible SIP goal ideas at our next meeting. We discussed the Superintendent's working group met on 12/2/10 and we do not yet know the results of the working group meeting.

4. Set next meeting date

We will schedule our next meeting for 1/19/11 2:45-4:00 to work on our communication piece and if possible next year's SIP.