

Cole School Site Council Meeting Minutes  
10/20/08

Members present: Terry Marcille, MaryAnn York, Lisa Simmons, Lisa Salisbury, Kara Delaney, Kathryn Nikas

Members absent: Jenn Weiler, Skip Blaeser, Susan Dwyer, Candyce Wainwright

1. MCAS/NCLB

K. Nikas shared MCAS district rankings for 2008. The only subgroup to not make AYP is special education subgroup; our focus has been on this, with inclusion, instructional strategies, etc., but we need to work harder. Target goals increase every year, but we are held to a standard and we need to meet this target every year. Every student must be there by 2014. In ELA and Math, we met in all subgroups except special education. We need to keep moving forward to get all students to proficiency by 2014. ELA, more than math, particularly the long composition, needs more attention. L. Salisbury asked if there is a correlation between high state ranking scores from one grade level each year through the years. Tomorrow night at School Committee, Dr. Creeden will make MCAS presentation.

2. Kindergarten Grant/Survey

K. Nikas submitted the kindergarten grant for five full days to the state, despite knowing that the grant was among the cuts made by Governor Patrick. K. Nikas wants to stress to the community the importance of giving all kindergarten students the opportunity to have five days of school experience. There is so much to cover in a short time that five days is really necessary. K. Nikas sent out a survey to Cole families for feedback and opinions on kindergarten program. She had 168 responses in two days' time. Feedback seemed to be split down middle on preference of three-day vs. five-day; one deciding factor did seem to be the financial burden of paying for five-day kindergarten. Many parents indicated they chose five-day kindergarten because of the greater amount of time for play, peer interaction, and curriculum enrichment. K. Nikas would like to work with a teacher team to track a group of kindergarteners over time (3 day vs. 5 day) to show data (DIBELS, DRA, etc.) that may support a five-day program as well. L. Salisbury suggested finding this data out for current second graders and track back in time as well. Five-day kindergarten will be on strategic plan for future. K. Delaney asked if many schools offered five-day kindergarten.

3. Strategic Plan

In addition to five-day kindergarten, K. Nikas anticipates some health and wellness goals as well. T. Marcille had suggested grant writers to help us support all of the goals in light of tough economic times. We need to figure out ways to partner up to meet our goals.

4. Kordis family generously donated time and labor to install new sound system in cafeteria. Mrs. Costello and Mr. Turner donated their Teacher Wishes money to help pay for system. K. Nikas said system works beautifully and is a big improvement to former system.

#### 5. Technology

All SMART boards that were initially planned have been installed. SMART boards are a great addition to our curriculum and we look to find support for other programs in future. For example, there is a resource (Renzuli) available for students to assess learning styles and work with technology.

#### 6. Sub-group meetings

All Site Council members have been assigned to a group. Meetings have been set and members should have been notified and teachers will have coverage. Groups will meet and report back to the larger Site Council.

#### 7. Other

T. Marcille mentioned again the idea of having a school-wide motto or mantra to reinforce student behavior, like “Smart and Safe, Safe and Smart.” Need simple language that is consistent and speaks at kids’ level. K. Nikas can address at Morning Meeting to reinforce kids. K. Nikas has noticed improved behavior and attention with increased group conversation and students’ use of cordless microphone.

M. York asked if it is possible for teachers to get information about what is covered each week at Morning Meetings so that we can reinforce in classroom. T. Marcille suggested to put in Monday Memo.