

Site Council Minutes
10-13-2009

In attendance: Kathryn Nikas, Barbara Boulay, Debbie Holt, Terry Marcille, (teacher reps) Alicia Caron, Sandy Karcher, (parent reps) Josh Kennedy (community rep) and Beth Yando

Members Absent: Lisa Simmons, Alison Barton (teacher reps) Michelle Blaeser (parent rep)

1. Introduction of Community member, Josh Kennedy of the Boxford Town Library. This year the Site Council is teacher heavy. In years past, it has been parent heavy. Both membership types are acceptable for the make up of the Site Council as stipulated in Education Reform Act.
2. Site Council Fact Development sheet review.
 - a. The council looked at the Focus and Core Values sections of the sheet in order to update them to reflect the Boxford School Committee goals for 2008-2012.
 - b. We will update the look of the page in order to catch the attention of readers to note the changes.
3. Bus Driver meeting
 - a. This year we will include some teacher reps in the meeting with Kathryn Nikas and the drivers in order to clarify behavior standards for students while riding the bus.
 - b. Principal Fliegelman of Spofford Pond School will also be invited to attend in an effort to ensure that bus behavior standards are consistent in both schools.
 - c. The council agreed that an important message for us to convey to the bus drivers is to not be afraid to use the bus slips as a means to communicate problems that may arise on the bus.
4. Community Outreach subgroup. Math Instructional Support Specialist Beth Yando will join Kathryn Nikas in heading up this committee as part of her graduate work in Education Leadership.
5. School Improvement Plan Subgroup
 - a. Sandy Karcher, Beth Yando and Alicia Caron will serve on this sub committee.
 - b. Sub committee groups always report back to the Site Council as a whole.
 - c. Last year, the Site Council did not have any volunteers for the subcommittees from the Cole Community. In order to encourage more

members to volunteer, Kathryn Nikas will put information about the work of the Site Council and its subcommittees in the next Cole Connection.

6. Recess and bus line concerns for kindergarteners and new students. There have been a few incidents where some students are not sure who they can approach for their concerns while at recess and/or waiting for their buses, as they do not recognize other teachers or staff on duty. Kathryn Nikas will speak to the children about this issue during her Morning Meetings.
7. Strategic Plan Overview – The Site Council will choose 1 or 2 goals to focus on this year.
 - a. Kathryn Nikas suggested Technology and another goal that ties in with using technology to positively affect student achievement. Members will review all of the goals to discuss and make a decision at the next meeting.
8. Discussion and clarification of the use of assessments as a means to inform instruction at earlier grade levels, rather than to report out to parents and other stakeholders. (e.g. DRA) This informed instruction then leads to more measured and reported student achievement assessments at Spofford (e.g. MCAS) in the later grades.