

Site Council Minutes
November 9, 2009

In attendance: Kathryn Nikas, Barbara Boulay, Debbie Holt, Terry Marcille, Lisa Simmons, Alison Barton (teacher reps) Alicia Caron, Sandy Karcher, (parent reps) and Beth Yando

Members Absent: Josh Kennedy (community rep) Michelle Blaeser (parent rep)

I. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Relations – Alison Barton, Beth Yando, Kathryn Nikas reported the following

The purpose of the committee is to strengthen the relationship with the broader Boxford community.

Goal: To build a relationship with Boxford Senior citizens

Action Plan:

1. Community members who have math/science backgrounds to come into the school and work with students
2. Arrange for Grade 2 to sing at the Senior center
3. Have interested seniors volunteer in the school libraries
4. Hold a Career Night where seniors can talk about their careers with students
5. Have students interview seniors about their heritage as a tie-in with Social Studies Standards.

Kathryn Nikas and Beth Yando will go to the Senior Center to present these ideas.

School Improvement – The committee will garner ten questions each from last year's Parent Survey and Teacher Survey on which to focus their efforts.

II. BUS DRIVER MEETING

Principals Kathryn Nikas and Larry Fliegelman met with bus drivers to clarify behavior standards for students and to hear any concerns. In addition to the following, it was agreed that of utmost importance is to keep the lines of communication open between schools and buses.

- a. The 6th graders are the most active and challenging group on the buses
- b. Drivers are considerate of families and concerned about safety, often circling around to make certain that a parent who may be running late is there to meet a child
- c. Birthday parties riding on the buses are no longer allowed due to crowding. On some buses, riding the bus to facilitate after school play dates also creates overcrowding.
- d. Children who have extra long bus rides (40 minutes) need to have a book to keep them interested and quietly behaving. Other items are too

dangerous (pencils) or distracting (I Pods, toys). Many buses play the radio as well.

III. FAQ Series

The following Site Council FAQs will be reviewed and updated

- a. Technology and Media – by B. Boulay together with Candyce Wainwright
- b. Health and Wellness – by D. Holt with Margaret Costello
- c. Foreign Language – by T. Marcille
- d. Science and Math – by A. Barton and L. Simmons

The following will be added to the FAQ document

- a. Social Studies –
- b. Language Arts –
- c. Art, Music and PE

IV. STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

It was agreed that the Site Council would focus on Goal #8 Health and Wellness of the Boxford School Committee's District Goals.

V. SUCCESSION/REGIONALIZATION

Kathryn Nikas gave an overview of the Tritown School Committees efforts, along with a consultant, to garner community input on the future of leadership and make-up of the Tritown Schools given the fact of the retirement of Dr. Creeden and the need to then attract a highly qualified Superintendent from a limited pool of applicants. Having one School Committee and one budget will be more attractive to the next Superintendent.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Sandy Karcher reported that some parents who have children attending both Boxford schools are finding it difficult to pick up their children on time. K. Nikas questioned whether they were aware of the transfer bus shuttle available between Cole and Spofford Pond Schools.