

Site Council Minutes 6-14-10

Members Present: K. Nikas, B. Boulay, A. Barton, T. Marcille, M. Blaeser, L. Simmons, A. Caron, S. Karcher, D. Holt.

School Improvement Action Plan – Kathryn Nikas presented to and reviewed the new SIP goals for the 2010-2011 academic year with the Council. She will present the Plan to the Boxford School Committee at their meeting on June 15th. School-wide focus will be on the new RTI (Response to Intervention) process (Goal 3) and the continuation of the instructional writing goal (Goal 1) from last year's plan.

Ms. Nikas explained that the Boxford School Committee's Strategic Plan Goals are the over arching goals used to create our action goals each year.

Terry Marcille asked about Goal 1B, specifically to clarify the 'local assessments' term used in measuring academic and personal achievement in special subject areas. Kathryn Nikas explained that report card grades are the assessment currently in place.

Michelle Blaeser asked that the "mobile labs" used in library classes and referred to in Goal 1B be explained further. Barbara Boulay elaborated on this, explaining that the labs consist of laptop computers that students use in the library for research. The Technology department, PTO and BEST provided the hardware and the district provides continuing support. The labs can also be used in classrooms when needed.

Teachers will observe one another teaching across the grade levels. This action was introduced this school year and will be expanded upon next school year. (Goal 2)

New Cole School Wellness Committee has been formed to address the high interest in issues such as the school lunch program. Thaya Puglisi will be the teacher representative and Sue Bodwell will represent the food service program. (Goal 4)

Parent and staff surveys will continue to be part of our School Improvement Plan. The SC reviewed the results of this year's Parent Survey. The focus areas as a result of the survey are bullying and the school lunch program. The Teacher's Wellness Committee will continue to focus on the areas of Bullying and Cyber bullying, reviewing programs such as Open Circle and Responsive Classroom. (Goal 7)

The Cole School Wellness Committee will address issues with nutrition. (Goal 1B)

Another new initiative to better inform parents of our math and reading curriculums is to provide recorded interviews with teachers talking about the curriculums and make these available on-line on the Cole School web page. (Goal 4)

Resources to support five-day kindergarten for all will be sought. A Five Day Exploration Committee will be formed to pursue this initiative. (Goal 5)

A Steering Committee will be formed of teachers, administrators, School Committee members and community members to seek a new principal for the Harry Lee Cole School who will begin employment in July 2011. (Goal 6)

A new math curriculum initiative will be to acquire the financial resources needed to fund a school subscription for IXL. This is a standards based online math program for use both in school and at-home via our school website. (Goal 7)

Further Discussion –

Sandy Karcher inquired about the idea of switching the order of lunch and lunch recess in order to give students a better opportunity to finish their lunches. Kathryn Nikas reported that the lunch period is used as by the Guidance office for social group activities and that this schedule will need to be considered before the switch can be implemented.

A point of sale system to pay for school lunches is to be implemented in the fall as a result of an audit of the school lunch program. POS will have students using a card system rather than lunch tickets to purchase lunch. This card may also be used in the future for families to pay for other school fees such as preschool and five day tuition.