

**Cole School Site Council**  
**Minutes**  
**Monday, December 12, 2011**

**Present:** A. Caron, J. Kennedy, A. Barton, D. Holt, D. Connery, B. Boulay, M. Blaeser, B. Middleton-Cox

**~ Approval of Minutes from 11.12.11**

**~ 5-Full Day, Tuition-free Kindergarten Exploratory Process**

Principal Middleton-Cox updated the Council with regard to his presentation to the Boxford School Committee meeting on 12.8.11

The key points of the discussion that followed were:

Educational curriculums are currently being developed under the assumption of a 5 full- day Kindergarten model. (e.g. *Foundations*, a systematic phonics program being piloted next year at Cole School and currently in use in Topsfield schools)

Kindergarten is NOT mandatory in the Commonwealth of Mass., however, in order for public school districts in the state to receive any State or Federal funding, 425 hours of Kindergarten must be offered.

There is an inherent inequity in the availability of RTI services for students due to scheduling in the current 3 Full Day classes compared with students in the 5-Day Kindergarten classes.

Towns in our geographical region and with similar demographics to Boxford only offer 5 Full-Day Tuition-Free Kindergarten.

Results of last month's Boxford Kindergarten Survey were favorable for 5 Full-Day Tuition-Free Kindergarten.

Impact on the Boxford Schools budget for 2013 would be \$28,000 due to a reserve on account. Impact on the 2014 budget would be greater, approximately \$170,000.

The BSC is philosophically on board with a 5-Day, Full-Time, Tuition-free model for Boxford Schools.

Registration for Kindergarten begins in January. We will go ahead with the 3-day, 5-day choice process, as the budget for 5 K for all won't be passed until May.

**~ Sub-committees for 2011 - 2012**

D. Connery and D. Holt – *Curriculum Videos* (with C. Elliot, Curriculum Director); M. Blaeser and A. Barton – *Yearly Survey*

**~ Next meeting – Mon, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 3:30 p.m. Principal's Conference Room**