

Dawson SIMCO (School Improvement Council)  
Dawson Elementary School  
155 Salisbury Street  
Holden, MA 01520

Meeting  
March 23, 2010  
Minutes

**Members Present:** P. Scales, D. Nickerson, M. Kennedy, J. Marzo, B. Szymanski,  
T. McAndrew, M. Mott, L. Warner, D. Torres-Gale, A. Labovitz

**Members Absent:** J. Carter

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

### **I. Minutes of February 23, 2010**

The minutes were unanimously approved with the change of the March meeting date from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to approve

1: D. Nickerson

2: L. Warner

### **II. School Enrollment**

P. Scales reported that the current school enrollment of 457 has stayed the same.

Updated incoming Kindergarten numbers for the 2010-2011 school year have slightly dropped from approximately 80 to 78 children.

Projected class lists for the upcoming school year are available but not being disclosed until April once the most current news from the state regarding budget is available.

### **III. Parent Advisory Council – Dawn Ertel**

Dawn Ertel did not attend the meeting. P. Scales made mention of verifying with N. Lagerstrom that she will in fact fill the teacher representative spot left vacant by C. Tidman.

#### IV. Survey

B. Szymanski compiled 3 different spreadsheets tallying the results and comments of the survey filled out by parents.

Members discussed

- Changes in the report card reporting/how to better explain grading with 1-4
- Website
- Length of homework in various grades
- Class sizes in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Bus behavior
- Misinformation of some parents in filling out survey (ex. peanut butter in the cafeteria)
- Posting writing samples online of K-5

P. Scales requested the spreadsheets in electronic format in order to disseminate to staff and to place online.

#### V. School Improvement Plan

Review began of the School Improvement Plan, specifically Goals 1-19, as well as a review of the 2009 MCAS scores.

Various additions and deletions were noted such as

Addition of

- Bully free classroom – STAMP OUT program
- Reading Buddy and Tutoring programs
- Fire Department Safety Program for Grades K-2
- Hands on Equations in Math for Algebra

Deletion of

- Banking program
- “Updating technology” to “maintenance of technology”

Members discussed

- The whole wheat pasta letter that two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students sent to *The Landmark*.
- Discovery Web
- Best place to list places to find school information – Patty will speak with PTA regarding possibility of placing this information on the Back-to-School folders
- A new link on website of Dawson School history
- Everyday Math program

Amanda Madore, the school psychologist, will be adding information regarding her job responsibilities to website.

P. Scales will be reviewing daily schedule to see if it is possible to have at least some grades have recess before lunch.

M. Kennedy asked why paraprofessional staff is no longer involved in professional development without any explanation. P. Scales will make an inquiry to find out.

P. Scales shared she was able to see the long composition of 4<sup>th</sup> grade MCAS from 2009 which is beneficial for future test taking; next year parents will have access to individual student progress in MCAS scores and the changes (if any) from year to year.

## **VI. School Committee Update – Dawn Torres-Gale**

- i. One word was added to the district policies on school councils – that word is “well” and how well the principles promote the positions on the school council
- ii. Thomas Prince is distributing flyers specifically to the Auburn, Fitchburg, Gardner, Hubbardston and Leominster communities to try to draw in students. However, it would still be considered school choice and no busing is available which some parents feel is a necessary part of the school experience.
- iii. The Education Subcommittee is “being heavily courted” by the West Boylston School District because of its desire to become part of WRSD. An entire regionalization between the two districts is not a possibility but perhaps some type of union, especially in terms of the high school students, may be on the table. Some parents in the WRSD would rather a smaller high school experience for their children which the WB district can provide. This is different than school choice because busing would be provided. Dawn reported that many WB high school students currently go elsewhere (Clinton, Assabet) because parents do not feel it provides a college preparatory experience.

## **VII. Concerns**

P. Scales will be sending the School Improvement Plan to each member for review prior to the next meeting since the Plan must be approved by the council before submission on April 15th.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn

1. M. Kennedy
2. D. Nickerson

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2010**

Respectfully Submitted, Tina McAndrew