

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

Meeting
January 26, 2010
Minutes

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

Members Absent: L. Warner & C. Tidman

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

I. Minutes of December 15, 2009

The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. School Enrollment

Enrollment has remained the same. We had 2 children leave and 2 children enter Dawson. The kindergarten census has 73 potential children for the 2010-2011 school year. Kindergarten registration will be going out the beginning of February. There will be 1 full day class and 3 half day classes for next year. It does not look like there will be any big changes for next year. There has not been any discussion with staff yet as to class size.

III. Parent Advisory Council - Dawn Ertel

D. Ertel was absent from the meeting.

VI. School Committee Update - Dawn Torres-Gale

We skipped ahead as Dawn had another commitment and asked if she could be moved up.

D. Torres-Gale reported on the Race to the Top Grant of \$70,000. for the district if all criteria was met. This is federal money. Three individuals made up of the Superintendent, Committee Chairperson, and Teacher union president. The money is for instituting teacher/principal effectiveness. This will put new programs in schools. (a job above and beyond what teachers are doing) The deadline for filing was January 13, 2010 and the feeling was to sign and get it out. We can always decline it at a later date. School Committee questioned what we are doing for the gifted and talented children. J. Locke would like to review with the principals first.

It was reported that WRSD spends the lowest per student ratio compared to the following:

Students 7,556 (2008)

WRSD \$8,746. per student

BILLERICA:

Students 6,465 (2008)

\$10,232. per student

SHREWSBURY:

Students 8,724 (2008)

\$10,768. per student

WRSD holds the teachers and principals responsible for spending whereas other schools may not. Comparing Dawson to Shrewsbury it is at or above except for one school. It is felt that parent participation/involvement and teacher professional development leads to the success of our schools.

There will be more professional development days next year. Ten days are scheduled for the coming year. DESE Grant (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) K-12 Literacy Program Of 67 school districts WRSD was chosen as one of the recipients. This grant will support the literacy program.

February 6, 2010 from 9am - noon the School Committee will be meeting to go over the cherry sheet for next year. It appears to be an extremely slim budget. The hope is for level funding and not making cuts to the staff. The meeting is to be held at the Media Center at WRHS. The public is invited to attend. P. Scales reported that needs budget done by grade level at Dawson. The letter for donations to help WRSD brought in \$2600. as reported by Peter Brennan. This was an Adhoc SubCommittee through the school committee. This is a separate account from the regular budget money.

IV. Survey - final draft and letter/timeline

After reviewing the final draft a few corrections were made. It was decided to include the Survey Letter in the report cards to be distributed on January 29, 2010.

V. School Improvement Plan

P. Scales asked the committee to look through the plan and make comments for the February meeting.

VII. Concerns

Look into gifted, writer's workshop, U.Conn math in third grade. P. Scales commented on the graphing in the hallway for grades three and four.

Dr. Pandiscio visited Dawson. He toured the building with P. Scales and saw many groupings within classes in all grade levels. It was a great visit.

Community Readers - P. Scales and Elaine Trutor will be taking care of finding readers. This will take place in April. School Wide Activities to build school spirit include fourth grade watershed night for parents, Pen Pals in Arizona (informational)

J. Carter reported on an article she found in the paper concerning recess before lunch. It mentioned how it was beneficial to the children to have recess prior to lunch and the children seemed to have more energy in the classroom in the afternoon. Discussion followed on winter recess during inclement weather. M.

Kennedy mentioned about taking the children out on the blacktop and not having anything to do. P. Scales said she would bring it up at the next faculty meeting with the teachers.

J. Marzo mentioned that Healthy Snack Month is in March.

VIII Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

1. D. Nickerson
2. J. Marzo

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2010