

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

**Meeting
May 19, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: P. Scales, M. Horton, M. Kennedy, J. Maher, M. Mott ,
T. McAndrew, B. Szymanski, C. Tidman

Members Absent:, J.O'Brien, E. Warner

Visitors: none

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Motion: M. Kennedy

Second: C. Tidman

I. Review and approval of minutes of April 13, 2009 SIMCO meeting

Minutes from April meeting were approved.

Motion: P. Scales

Second: M. Kennedy

Vote: Approved, Unanimous

II. School enrollment

- Two new fifth graders have joined Dawson, and one first grader.

III. Revise Parent Survey

In addition to minor word changes throughout, the following modifications or additional questions have been added to the Parent Survey:

- Helpfulness of Connect Ed, and Dawson Website
- Grade 5 Progress Update
- Grade K-4 Progress Reports
- Dawson Handbook and Calendar
- Literacy Initiative
- Interest level for books in the Dawson library
- Transportation policies

IV. School Committee update – Mark James

Mr. James not present

V. Parent Advisory Council – John Maher

- Pre-Labor Day start for school will be the standard practice.
- Positive results have been seen for the Literacy Initiative based on the DRA and AIMS benchmark scores.
- Middle schools currently have two blocks of ELA, therefore there will be a push to begin the Literacy Initiative at that level.
- Middle schools will lose World Cultures (French and Spanish), and that time will become study skills or art.
- WRHS expenses will peak next year.
- Some parents would like to see a parent policy allowing for volunteering at the elementary level.

VI. Concerns

- School Handbook and Calendar to be reviewed for next meeting.

VIII. Good of the order

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Motion: M. Kennedy

Second: M. Horton

Next meeting: June 9, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Horton,
Acting Secretary