

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

Meeting  
October 20, 2009  
Minutes

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

**Members Absent:** a community representative

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

#### **I. Minutes of June 9, 2009**

L. Warner moved the approval of the minutes. They were unanimously approved.

#### **II. School Enrollment**

Total enrollment this year is 457. Larger class sizes are in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. Interviews are underway for a new half day Kindergarten teacher to replace Mrs. Wilkinson.

#### **III. Parent Advisory Council**

This group meets monthly with the superintendent. Alison Labovitz will consider taking on this duty.

#### **IV. Start of School**

Mrs. Scales reported a good opening, with no major glitches. We've had a couple of enrichment programs already including STAMP out bullying, Smokey the Bear, and Mother Goose.

#### **V. Survey Results**

Survey results were distributed and reviewed. There were only 61 respondents from this on-line survey conducted near the end of the school year. The plan next year is to put it out in paper form in February so there is time to respond and shape plans for the coming year. For the most part the majority of respondents rated everything very good or good. Mrs. Scales will bring the individual comments for the next meeting.

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

Mrs. Torres-Gale introduced herself and thanked the teachers for the job they did to save the jobs of other teachers due to the budget crisis. Harriet Chandler is pushing through Bill 269 in the Senate that will link regional transportation with base funding so regional districts don't get slammed with transportation budget cuts. The school committee is also working on the following:

a. Looking into establishing a foundation that would take donations to the district and provide a reserve as well as allow the district to get more grants.

b. Implementing a new observation law that allows parents of special ed. Students to come in and observe their child in their program.

c. open meeting law – there will put an ad in The Landmark telling parents they can sign up on line to receive the agenda and/or minutes for all school committee meetings.

d. H1N1 – District is working with town health agents to implement after school or weekend clinics in schools to vaccinate school age children.

e. Reports from the Deputy Superintendent are produced monthly and offer a great overview of programs going on in the district schools.

#### **VII. Concerns**

None at this time

#### **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Survey comments and MCAS results**