

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

Meeting
November 17, 2009
Minutes

Members Present: P. Scales, M. Kennedy, A. Labovitz, J. Marzo, T. McAndrew, D. Nickerson, B. Szymanski, D. Ertel

Members Absent: M. Mott, C. Tidman, L. Warner, D. Torres-Gale

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

I. Minutes of October 20th, 2009

T. McAndrew moved the approval of minutes. They were unanimously approved.

II. School Enrollment

Total enrollment this year is 457. Since last meeting there has been a new student in first grade. Kim McCormick was hired as the new kindergarten teacher and started on November 4th. First graders have participated in a program on sound from the Discovery Museum and the 2nd graders participated in a program called "Eyes on Owls".

III. Parent Advisory Council

Dawn Ertel has volunteered to be on the Parent Advisory Council. June Carter will be a community liaison.

IV. Survey Results – Comments

- a. Survey comments from the school survey were read and reviewed. Both the art teacher and the gym teacher were spoken to about comments regarding their subject areas.
- b. In order for the challenge course to be in use there is a \$4000.00 yearly training fee along with a \$1400.00 inspection fee. At this time P. Scales would like to spend money on needed school supplies. The gym teacher will be speaking with other gym teachers at different schools to see if the cost can be split. The program was district funded 4-5 years ago, but is no longer. The students will be able to utilize the lower elements without the gym teacher having special training.
- c. More information about school budget will be presented to parents this year.
- d. P. Scales stated that the recess monitors can try to have children play active games during indoor recess this year.

- e. So far this year there have been no problems with the rear door pick up line.
- f. Individual classroom schedules are developed based on student needs within the classroom and cannot be changed.
- g. The fifth grade presentation at the end of the year went well. Parents missed individual students speaking, but the students did not mind that they did not individually speak.
- h. Regarding the cafeteria, vegetables, fruits, salads, and wheat products are already offered. Some classrooms may get rid of morning snack if it is too close to lunch time.
- i. The council was asked to review the paper copy of the survey for this year in order for it to go out in February.

V. MCAS/SG Student Growth Percentiles

The DOE will be informing parents how students grow each year on MCAS examinations. When parents receive the reports in fifth grade they should look for the median growth of over 50%. This year fourth grade has a goal to improve math growth scores. The council was given a handout regarding growth score information on Dawson students compared to the other schools in the district in math and language arts. Dawson was in the middle with schools that had higher growth rates and lower growth rates.

VI. School Committee Update – Dawn Torres-Gale

Dawn Torres-Gale was not in attendance. J. Marzo and D. Nickerson discussed the math program that was being implemented through UCONN as a study on what works in gifted and talented education. Fifth grade teachers are creating a math pacing guide. In January, students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will be taking a benchmark assessment in math. Teachers will use the information to know what the students still need instruction in and what students still need to learn.

VII. Concerns

No concerns at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 15th

Survey will be reviewed to be distributed in February