

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

**Meeting
November 17, 2008
Minutes**

Members Present: P. Scales, M. Horton, M. Kennedy, J. Maher, T. McAndrew, M. Mott, J. O'Brien, B. Szymanski, C. Tidman, L. Warner

Members Absent:

Visitors: none

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Motion: J Maher

Second: T. McAndrew

I. Review and approval of minutes of October 21, 2008 SIMCO meeting

Minutes from October 21st meeting were approved

Motion: L. Warner

Second: M. Kennedy

Vote: Approved, Unanimous

SIMCO thanks the following staff member who has volunteered for another term: Mary Kennedy

II. School Enrollment

465 students are currently enrolled at Dawson School, which included three move-outs and three move-ins. With the budget process beginning, no anticipated changes in staffing should occur.

III. Program Updates

Dawson has begun the utilization of an exciting new math program called Math Exemplars. The software is now available to all teachers and is currently in practice in grades three to five. The program teaches children a methodology for solving word problems and expressing their solutions in well-developed written open responses. The students seem to enjoy the interesting math challenges the program presents.

IV. MCAS results

Members reviewed the 2008 MA School and District MCAS Profile.

V. School Committee update

M. James not present

VI. Concerns

Superintendents Parents Advisory Council Update – J. Maher

- Loss of school revenue totaled \$27,680
- Staff will be maintained and loss will be taken in other areas.
- Healthcare costs are giving the budget the biggest “hit”.
- A cost avoidance program to be implemented
- Concern: district wide programs, full-day K, support materials needed.

VIII. Good of the order

Meeting adjourned at 8:450 p.m.

Next meeting: January 20, 2009

Motion: M. Kennedy

Second: J. O'Brien

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Horton,
Acting Secretary