

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

Meeting  
October 18, 2011  
Minutes

Members Present: P. Scales, M. Poch, M. McQuade, J. Marzo, K. Rutledge, G. Ackerman, A. Lobovitz, R. Bodwell, D. Nickerson, D. Ertel, R. Kodra, T. Duggan

Parents Present: J. Jerome

Members Absent: (School Committee Member)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. with introductions for new members.

### **I. Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes from the June 7, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **II. School Enrollment**

School enrollment at meeting time was 460; expectation that one student would be joining DW Class the following week to bring enrollment back up to 461.

Staffing numbers remain that same. P. Scales talked about Mrs. Flynn joining Kindergarten team teaching half-day class.

### **III. School Committee**

School Committee representative did not attend the meeting.

### **IV. School Opening**

The school year is underway after busy opening. P. Scales explained:

*Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop* – revised schedule in place for K-5. Initiative for this school year was to implement common schedules so that all classes follow Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop at the same time. This allows for RTI/small groups to work, etc.

*Science* – realigning Science K-5.

*Classroom Performance System* (clickers) – Currently training teachers grades 2-5 (system already in place for grade 2 classrooms). Team of teachers being trained will train others going forward. Eventually K-2 will use the system as well. J. Marzo and R. Kodra discussed some of the features learned in training:

- Mobile device for quarterly assessments.
- Instant feedback – provides snapshot of how children are learning/mastering topics.
- Systematically analyzes data entered.

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Realignment* – P. Scales discussed the initiative to realign ELA with common core framework, standards for every state. Math is also being realigned. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Realignment must be in place by 2013. Staff is addressing and working on the current gap assessment during Professional Development/In-Service days to meet the 2013 deadline.

*Other programs* – upcoming/PTA: Bullying Program, Smokey Bear, Grade 3 field trip, Vision/Hearing/BMI (option), Book Fair, Reports scheduled for 11/14.

*WRSD MCAS Overview and Next Steps* – Superintendent has aligned our district with comparison to Shrewsbury and Westborough School Districts. WRSD has shown slow, steady growth over time with results in the Advanced/Proficient categories. Dawson often lands in a higher percentage rating than the total district results for grades 3-5.

*MCAS Science* – The team reviewed M. McQuade's lesson where her first grade class worked jointly with Mrs. Hilton's grade three class. The class worked jointly with their peers to develop their thought process using worms.

*MCAS Math* – The team reviewed D. Nickerson's Math Warm-up lesson where her third grade class is working on place value/number sense. Previous MCAS questions are used to guide the students to find process and solve, making sure the information makes sense.

*MCAS Workshop* – Heather Larson and Lori St. Germain will attend the November 2 workshop. The goal is to differentiate for student needs.

## **V. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

*WRSD School Improvement Plan* – Template for 2012-2013. Goals 1 through 4 have changed and we will work to update success measures and goals. These include:

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Community Relationships (K. Rutledge 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Alex's Lemonade fundraiser)
- Professional Learning (aligning common core to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills)
- Facilities and Resources

*Rainbow* – steps to the rainbow. Teachers are taking students to the next level, analyzing cause and effect, thinking outside the box, looking at the bigger picture using evidence, etc.

#### VI. Concerns/Comments

P. Scales thanked J. Jerome for attending our meeting as an interested parent. She also asked if the members would like to keep the same meeting time on the third Tuesday of the month. The committee agreed to continue this set time. T. Duggan agreed to co-chair the SIMCO committee with A. Labovitz.

P. Scales explained the situation where the PTA will be receiving funds back from the IRS. The issue arose with an error in submitting paperwork, but has now been resolved.

The next SIMCO meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

Motion to adjourn

1. D. Nickerson
2. T. Duggan

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn Ertel