

Mountview Middle School

270 Shrewsbury Street
Holden, Massachusetts 01520
Phone (508) 829-5577
Fax (508) 829-3711

Wachusett Regional School District

C. Erik Githmark, Principal
Karen Hughes, Assistant Principal
Brian McCarthy, Assistant Principal

Mountview School Improvement Council (SIMCO) Minutes January 20, 2011

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

Present: C. Erik Githmark, Merle Olson, Jeanette Dill, Mary Jude Piglsey, Christopher Whamond, Steven Hammond, Terrie LaMarche, Wayne Switzer, Liza Anderson and Peggy Carlson

Minutes from April 12, 2011 meeting were accepted.

Meeting began with a discussion about the **2011 Student Survey**. Erik Githmark reported on input he received from the teaching staff at the May faculty meeting. The teachers would like the responses to follow the same format as the parent survey (i.e. Strongly Agree, Agree, Don't Know, Disagree, Strongly Disagree) as opposed to a yes/no response. The wording 'high expectations' was exchanged for 'academic excellence.' A discussion ensued about where and how many comment sections to add. The essential goal of the survey is to find out how to make Mountview better for students and learn what Mountview is currently doing well from a student's perspective. The survey will be taken by students end of May/beginning of June. Mary Jude Pigsley asked about the wording of questions #17-19 about 'classroom resources.' She wondered if students would know what this meant or referred to.

A followup on the **2011 Parent Survey** was given by Mr. Githmark. He reported that the results were discussed at the May faculty meeting and that grade level meetings were also being held to discuss the results. He wanted parents to know that the survey results were being taken seriously and that changes would be made where necessary. The parent survey results will be posted on the school website. Mr. Githmark stated that the biggest issues at Coffee and Chats are how often teachers update their websites and about students being overwhelmed by concurrent projects. He suggested using Google calendar to post projects so teachers can see which weeks or months are too busy.

A **Mountview Building Committee Update** was given. A project manager has been approved by the state and so now the committee can move forward with its objectives. Meetings will be held every two weeks.

A **School Committee Update** was given by Steve Hammond. He reported that new boards and president had been elected. He felt the budget was relatively uncontroversial this year and that a level service budget was approved. He said that the district is not facing cuts and can maintain what we have for the next year. He did note that classroom sizes in the district are getting larger and that textbooks and technology are not being updated. He remarked that it will be difficult to keep meeting AYP with similar towns who spend two or three times more money per pupil than the Wachusett Regional School District.

Mr. Githmark ended the meeting with thanks to all members for their service. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. Next meeting will be scheduled in the fall of the 2011-2012 school year.