

Mountview Middle School

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Wachusett Regional School District

C. Erik Githmark, Principal
Karen Hughes, Assistant Principal
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Mountview School Improvement Council (SIMCO) Minutes February 15, 2011

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

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

Minutes from January 20, 2011 meeting were accepted.

Meeting began with a discussion about Tracy Lawrence's sixth grade math class. Her classroom caught an error in a math problem on a **Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate** box. They wrote the company but never received a reply. Then a Hamilton-Wenham student was featured on the news as discovering the error. Mrs. Lawrence wrote the company to ask why Mountview students were not acknowledged as they found the error first. In reply, Swiss Miss sent four pallets of hot chocolate sample boxes for the students to enjoy.

The council then took a look at the enrollment numbers for the upcoming years as predicted in the **NESDEC (New England School Development Council) Population projections**. Mountview's current enrollment this year is 791 students. A handout with the projected numbers of students per year and grade level was handed out. Projected enrollment for the 2014-15 school year at Mountview is for 849 students. Holden's second grade at this time has the highest enrollment of students. Mr. Githmark stated that this jump in enrollment which is coming over the next three to four years needs to be kept 'on the radar' as it will certainly affect Mountview as far as spacing and staff is concerned.

Next there was a discussion about making changes to the **Mission and Core Values** for Mountview. After reviewing the current statement, the council took suggestions on shortening the current version and making some changes to keep it current. The council agreed to add some

language involving respect of others as well as the importance of a safe, supportive environment which is free from harassment as worded in the new anti-bullying legislation.

The **2011 School Survey** was discussed. Mr. Githmark added to the demographics section whether a student is on the Gold or Blue team. He also moved the demographics page to the beginning of the survey with more specific directions on taking the survey (i.e. whether per student or one per family) to eliminate confusion. Chris Whamond discovered an error on the comments section that needed to be fixed. Mr. Githmark will open the survey up to parents for a two-week window from March 7th through March 21st as well as promote it through the newsletter, Connect Ed, Coffee and Chat, and PTA. Some results will be ready for the next SIMCO meeting.

A **Mountview Building Committee Update** was given by Erik Githmark. The committee is still waiting for the state to approve the project manager. The process for putting together the RFPs (request for proposals) has started. There are a number of steps and timelines given by the state that have to be followed for the Feasibility Study. It is a thirteen month process but fairly clear-cut due to the state templates that are available. Town meetings will need to take place as the process continues about whether to build a new building or stick with the current school building. The next Building Committee meeting is on Feb. 22nd.

A **School Committee Update** was given by Steve Hammond. He reported that the governor's proposed budget may allow the district to keep level-funded services for the next year. He felt that health care costs will rise. Another issue is that the school budget needs to be approved by four out of the five towns in the regional district and that most likely it will not pass in Rutland. A level service budget may also be a 'hard sell' in Paxton and Princeton as well. Currently the district is waiting for the state representatives and senators to vote on the governor's budget. Mr. Hammond also stated that as far as per pupil costs are concerned, WRSD is "tremendously efficient" as the level of education provided is a great value at a limited cost to taxpayers. He reported that WRSD spends less per student in every single category when compared to other towns such as Cambridge (spends 3 times more per student) and Shrewsbury (\$2000-\$3000 more per student). Because of its efficiency, he felt that any cuts "will hurt" as there is no 'fat' in the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th, at 5:30 in the school library.