



School Council Meeting
February 8, 2010

Minutes

Respectfully Submitted by Brian Murphey

Attendance:

Rajnish Singh, Principal – **Present**
Nancy Jester, Chair, Parent - **Present**
Robert Clayton, Teacher - **Present**
Robert Thien, Parent – **Present**
Donica Johnson, Teacher - **Present**
John Oselette, Parent - **Present**
Brian Murphey, Parent – **Present (left early)**

Guests:

Jolie Nolf, PTA Co-President
Tony Tiberia, PTA Co-President

The meeting was called to order at 7:15AM by Nancy Jester. The items below are a summary of the events of the meeting and are not necessarily in order.

Guests recognized

Minutes from meeting held on 1-11-10 approved by unanimous consent

- Motion was made to add PTA co-presidents as voting members to the School Council. Motion was not seconded.
- Discussed possibility of combining PTA and School Council. It was pointed out that this may not be legal, considering that the PTA is a tax-exempt fundraising organization and the School Council is an advisory group set up by the state government.
- Mr. Singh introduced a motion to include Nancy Jester and Janet Howry to the FSC. Motion was not seconded. Brian Murphey asked that we backtrack and first discuss FSC membership and the possibility of opening up membership to any interested parent. Discussion followed about the pros and cons of opening up membership.
- Council Member Brian Murphy left (remaining minutes taken by John Oselette), Council Member Robert Clayton also left.

- Mr. Singh introduced a motion to include Nancy Jester to the FSC. Seconded by Nancy Jester. There was no discussion. Motion Passed unanimously.
- Mr. Singh introduced a motion to include Janet Howry to the FSC. Seconded by Nancy Jester. Discussion followed. Ms. Jester called for the question, the motion carried - 3 yay, 2 nay
- Ms. Jester made a motion to amend the original motion made on 11/10/09 which created the FSC to include Ms. Jester and Ms. Howry. Seconded by Mr. Singh. No further discussion. Ms. Jester called for the question, the motion carried - 4 yay to 1 nay.

Principal's Report:

- Mr. Singh noted the increase in tardies at the school recently.
- 5th graders did not place in the "Reading Bowl", but he was very pleased with the participation.
- The County is looking into adding a 4 day week during summer break
- \$11,000 has been spent on books for the library and there is another \$6,000 in grant money that is expected.

Committee Reports:

Text of report from Safe Routes to School Committee. Submitted by Sarah Merkle:

Sarah and Jennifer are co-chairing the committee. Our first committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 2/9 from 7:50-8:35am in the cafeteria. We'll discuss start-up activities, including the parent surveys, student tallies, and GA Walk to School Day (March 3rd).

The parent surveys were due back January 21st. We received 154 back from parents. They will be given to Abby Mattera at Safe Routes to School- GA, and she will assist us with compiling the data from them.

Jennifer is working with Mr. Singh on getting the student tallies completed. These will be used as a baseline measurement, so we can see if more kids walk and bike to school as a result of the program.

Exciting news: Based on our progress so far and plans for this spring and next fall, Safe Routes to School GA upgraded Hawthorne from Bronze to Silver. This means Hawthorne will receive a Safe Routes to School banner that we can hang up outside the school to promote GA Walk to School Day on March 3rd. We'll also be promoting GA Walk to School Day by saying a few words at the Feb 3 morning assembly, sending out a reminder in Backpack Bites, and reminding students about the event over morning announcements on

March 1st and 2nd. We may send some pedestrian safety information home in a Thursday pack as well.

Other activities we're working on:

- Jennifer talked with Ms. Story about having the computer club work on a Safe Routes to School video, and she is interested in doing so.
- At Mr. Singh's request, Jennifer has contacted the DOT to request two crossing guards for Hawthorne.
- We are planning to have the pedestrian and bike safety assembly in the fall before International Walk to School Day in October.

Ambassador Program

- Thanks to Angela Makie, the program is highlighting the school in a very positive light to new parents.

Foundation Steering Committee

- Next meeting of the Steering Committee will be Wednesday, Feb. 24th at 6:30pm in the School's Library

Meeting was adjourned.

-End of minutes-