

School Council "Minutes"- November 1, 2012

Attendees:

Dr. Eileen Woods, Susan Sherburne, Don Miller, Jill Connor, June Byrne, Lauren Boyle, Mark Edry, Susan McCory, Rebecca Arnold, Shirley Canniff

- 1) Dr. Woods welcomed everyone, and the group selected Susan McCory to serve as the co-chair and be on the School Council for two years.

- 2) Diane Johnson, the district CFO, reviewed the broad parameters of the budget, limitations on funding sources and funding flexibility. She explained that most funds are used for pre-committed obligations (salaries, heat/electrical, building maintenance, special education out-of-district placements). The Dallin principal has approximately \$30,000 of discretionary funds for the school, which pays for supplies, expendables, paper/toner, software, instructional equipment. The PTO offers substantial additional financial support for enrichment, supplies, mini-grants.

- 3) The School Council reviewed Dallin's previous school goals, most of which were met (reading achievement increases, MCAS math showed some improvement, the Lucy Calkins writing program, assemblies, cultural enrichment, the Alert Now system, classroom websites, involving students in communication with home, the RAZ kids reading program, Kakooma math, differentiated professional development. The Council commended the Dallin staff for the fantastic reading program that is working well and that many other districts envy. Several goals are in progress (**ELMO and IPEVO use (?)**, teachers modeling appreciation of diversity through literature in classrooms (have received Mentor text, which offers diverse literary selections).

- 4) The Council reviewed district goals as guidance for school-based goals.

- 5) Staffing/Class size. The current second grade class is going to always have four classes. The current first grade has higher class sizes than comparable first grades across the district. There was discussion about perhaps creating a fourth class for this group going forward, however, there are space concerns once that group and the group ahead of it move upstairs, as space is limited. Discussion of this will continue. Additionally, there may be a need for an additional FTE for an adjustment counselor for special education as the caseload is extensive. There also may be a need for additional time from the team chair (**not sure which team...?**). Finally, there are some questions about the differential pay rates for teaching assistants fulfilling vastly different job responsibilities.

- 6) The contributed ideas for new goals were:
 - Professional development for "open response" for MCAS and tools for helping students complete this type of question, as this was an area of weakness in the Math MCAS scores.
 - Atlas professional development helping teachers link current curriculum with common core standards. (Jill Connor will work on writing this goal)

-Staffing/class size needs

-A goal for the PTO/parents- need to reach out to PTO (before school program, Destination Imagination, Smart Start, additional extra curricular offerings were some of the ideas to consider)

-An overall budget showing various funding streams for enrichment. Dr. Woods will bring the PTO budget to the next meeting.

6) Next steps. The next meeting will be Monday, November 5 at 3:00pm. There was a discussion about breaking into subcommittees at that time, as the goals need to be completed by the end of November.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Arnold