

## **School Council Minutes 11.5.12**

Attendees: Dr. Eileen Woods, June Byrne, Susan Sherburne, Lauren Boyle, Sue McCory, Mark Edry, Rebecca Arnold, Julia Swaney

Next meeting: Wed., November 14 at 3:00.

Limitations: The school council cannot make personnel requests, but can build smaller class sizes into its values statement. Despite this limitation, the council is charged with looking at the impact of class size on student achievement, so there may be some opportunity to include a class size discussion that has implications for personnel.

PTO: The PTO is interested in working with the school council to get parent input on school goals. The PTO board is going to discuss goals. There is a concern about the timing (goals have to be completed by the end of November). There may be an opportunity for the PTO to fund a major initiative of the school council (if doing so is voted favorably by the PTO). There will be opportunities to get parent feedback during the year.

Goals:

Focus groups- Focus groups could be done with parents (facilitated by faculty/ leadership team, unclear whether this would be done at homes and/or at school), children, and teachers (at faculty meetings). The data from these focus groups would be compiled and given to the PTO, the school council, and posted on the Dallin website.

Atlas Rubicon software- This year is an introduction to the software for the teachers. Teachers will be using the software extensively next year, and it will be ready for parental use in 2014-2015. It will take several sessions for teachers to really understand how to use the software.

Technology- The school needs four (4) additional ELMO'S, as the teachers find these really helpful; this number is make 1 ELMO per grade available for use. This might be something to ask the PTO to fund.

Professional Development- The needs assessment for professional development was not completed last year, so this will be done in 2013. Nonetheless, differentiated professional development is being implemented this year and this should continue as a goal.

Math MCAS- Every grade has many blanks in open response questions, which indicates this is an area that needs work. The cause of this is unclear: it could be confusion over math vocabulary, directions, or difficulty applying the open response work done in the classroom to the test. There is an interest in working on open

response questions across disciplines and math vocabulary in lower grades. Dallin needs a goal in this area, but it needs consideration about how to frame the target score improvement. We can do better with our math results, and there are opportunities to move children with slight deficits over to proficient. Lauren will work on this goal.

Data analysis- Teachers have done work to analyze MCAS results to identify areas of weaknesses, but this takes a very large amount of time. Sue will work on a goal about using/analyzing data.

STEM- the PTO has an interest in funding STEM work. Mark will work on this goal.

Questions: What is the cultural enrichment expenditure by the PTO by grade? There will probably be three assemblies.

Eileen will review the goals with the leadership team for feedback.

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Arnold.