

Jacobs School Council Meeting Minutes, 11/17/09

Present: K. Gerrior Perniola, M. Harper, D. McCarthy, E. Menice, M. Proude, K. Ryan, B. Tramontana, D. Tobin, C. Whelan

Prepared by: L. Canavan

I. Long-term Space Committee meeting update:

Chaired by Superintendent Kathleen Tyrell and school committee member Kathy Bowes. Each school is represented by the building principal, a teacher, and a parent.

Additionally, there are community representatives.

Purpose of the committee: to assess the long-term space needs of the school district, assess the feasibility of eliminating one school building. Considerations are finances, enrollment projections, state reimbursement funds, alternative uses for a school building, staffing.

Next meeting date: Monday, Dec. 7 at 3:00 p.m. Open meeting and all are welcome to attend.

II. 21st Century School Committee:

Chaired by school committee members Kristen Evans and Marianne Harte.

Purpose of the committee: To identify the elements of an ideal school system from the ground-up. Considerations are finances, college entrance requirements versus core curricular offerings, fixed special educational costs.

III. Terra Nova testing:

Has been completed. Discussion centered around the cost of the exam, timing of the exam (from Nov. to Sept.), utilization of the results, explanation of the results versus the non-negotiable MCAS testing and data results.

IV. Playground:

The area for the younger children is open. The older children's section has not been re-opened and is being researched by the district.

V. Budget FY11:

The discussion is beginning both within the district and the town government. Level Funded = cut in services. Level Services = maintaining current services. How can the council become an advocate in the budget discussion and process?

VI. Regular Meeting Times:

Tuesdays with a month-to-month calendar review for the next meeting.

VI. Joint Council:

Requested for 2010 calendar year.

Next meeting agenda items: MCAS "Growth Model" and 5th Grade Health