

Jacobs School Council
Minutes from 12/9/08

Preparer: Kathy DeiCicchi

Members present: Donna Tobin, Debbie McCarthy, Gregory Whelan, Cindy Whelan,
Bill Tramontana, Kerrie Ryan

Members not present: Lisa Canavan

Meeting began @ 7:30 PM

- Recruiting members for term periods to provide more consistency
- Accepted Resignation of Amie Forcum – not able to commit to school council at this time

- ~ Cindy Whelan & Greg Whelan will serve a 3-year term
- ~ Lisa Canavan & Bill Tramontana will serve a 2-year term

- Subsequent meetings will be scheduled for 6:30 on Tuesdays 1X/ month (schedule will be forthcoming)

- ~ Joint Meeting scheduled for Jan. 12th @ 4:00, Exhibition Room, Hull High

2008 – 2009 School Improvement Plan Review

Improvement Area One: Communication

Objective: To provide information to parents and the community on the academic happenings and successes on a regular basis.

Action/Comments

- * Working on adding Grade Level Curriculum Updates to weekly blue notes.
- * “Coffee Hours” are ongoing
- * Having some difficulty with monthly media article in Hull Times to highlight school events. Discussed setting “in-house” deadlines for newsworthy events. Cindy W. will be the coordinator for communications to the Hull Times.

Objective: To assess the School’s Parent Outreach and Involvement as viewed by staff and parents to implement suggestions for improvements and enhancements.

Action/Comments

- * Parent Institute’s *Assessing a School’s Parent Outreach and Involvement Surveys* will be redistributed @ Winter Concert, Dec. 17th.

- * Development of a parent/staff work force in response to survey.

Improvement Area Two: Curriculum and Instruction

Objective: To update one of the four main areas of the curriculum.

Action/Comments

- * New K-5 Science Program

Objective: To enhance the before and after-school enrichments programs for high-performing students.

Action/Comments

- * Did not receive DOE Enrichment Activities Grant, however we received some MCAS Grant monies to offer remediation for students who did not perform well on MCAS as well as monies for an after-school fitness and enrichment courses.

Objective: Re-Institute a Safe Schools, Conflict Resolution, Anti-Bullying Program.

Action/Comments

- * Jennifer Costa is doing the Second Step Anti-Violence Program with K-3 and 4th Grade Anti-Bullying/Conflict Resolution. Grade 5 Health Studies cover this topic.

Improvement Area Three: Student Academic Support

Objective: To identify and develop plans for students who perform poorly on assessments or struggle with meeting the demands of the classroom curriculum. and who may not be receiving services through SPED or Title One.

Action/Comments

- * Year 2 of the ASOST DOE grant for after-school Math obtained. Math League for Grades 3-4 meets 1 hour before school 1X/week to for challenging math activities. It is open to any student for a cost of \$30-\$40 (scholarships available). MCAS ELA will begin in January.
- * Coordination with Hull High School Honors Students for tutoring not accomplished yet. Some initiatives taken at present. Greg W. spoke in favor of "Reading Buddies" for younger students. Elaine M. spoke about initiatives to bring struggling readers into the pre-school to read to students.

Improvement Area Four: Human Resources and Professional Development

Objective: Offer a variety of Professional Development for All Staff Members

Action/Comments

- * Skillful Teacher on-site course begins Sat. with approximately 25 teachers.
- * Need to begin Professional Learning Community Book Groups
- * Need to design a systematic screening tool in response to professional development opportunities
- * Always working on providing access to PD in all content areas.

Improvement Area Five: Assessment and Evaluation

Objective: To develop an Assessment Planning Team to analyze data and develop an action plan to improve student achievement based on assessment data.

Action/Comments

- * An Assessment Development Committee has been created.
- * Goal is to provide user friendly reports to teachers from the Terra Nova and MCAS tests as part of professional development.
- * January 6th---Meeting scheduled to communicate an overview of the Terra Nova and how we may use it along with other assessment data to improve student outcomes.
- * Re-institute grade level evaluations of student work at grade level meeting at least 4 times per year for clearer grade level expectations.

Improvement Area Six: Financial and Asset Management

Objective: To fully utilize the on-line purchase system

Action/Comment

- * Presently using on line system
- * Still developing a systematic way for teachers to order materials and supplies needed within budgetary guidelines.

Meeting concluded at 8:45PM.

Agenda items for next meeting: Lunch issues raised by Cindy W. regarding payment procedures.

Next meeting minutes preparer: Elaine Menice

