

SCC Minutes October 27, 2015

Attendees: Jackie Mendonsa, Mary Anne Antonellis, Renee Richard, Debbie Lee, Ann Shea and Jen Culbreth

Review of Council representatives:

Jackie Mendonsa, Chair
Mark Conrad, Co-Chair Community Representative
Mary Anne Antonellis, Community Rep
Renee Richard, Staff
Debbie Lee, Staff
Jen Culbreth, Parent Representative
Ann Shea, Parent Representative

* Note-taker role will be shared by all participants

Shout Outs:

- Jackie announced that SES has been awarded the Stars Grant - \$5000; it will be used to sponsor the Artist-in Residence program
- Thank you to Shutesbury Fire fighters for their unplanned arrival
- Thank you to Ms. L for a successful Book Fair event

Enrollment is down reflecting 132 students of which there are only 6 kindergarteners. This represents a dramatic decline in enrollment even with one school choice student returning back to SES.

School choice is a big issue and the principal needs to think creatively about staffing. Mary Anne talked about Pelham and when they started school choice. She voiced opinion that years ago 'school choice was a no-no'.

Mary Anne shared the idea that we might need to have a new public persona - suggested town-wide announcements about positive things at the school; wondered if home-schooled students can participate in plays and other activities.

Jackie plans to approach school committee about enrollment concerns and hopes to present options that may help address this issue.

SIP

The SIP was well received by staff, Central Office and School Committee. The goals align professional development with standards and teacher goals. Feedback indicates that goals are within reach and materials aligned.

The council brainstormed topics to address at future meetings:

1. Enrollment
2. Vehicles of communication
 - Roadtown
 - Jackie discussed lack of response to the Road Town News - several ideas were presented for how to increase parents' use
 - The group briefly discussed ways to effectively communicate news to the greater community. We would like to assess opportunities for parent volunteers to support school-community communications.
 - Establish feedback loops (eg. "suggestion box" link on the website)
3. Updates to the annual survey - may need to look different vehicles; perhaps a school council suggestion box or 'button' for parents with the option of being anonymous
4. Future work of this council may address action steps to support the Culture, Climate and Community goal.
5. Share information on testing; DESE is presently evaluating the possibility of implementing MCAS 2.0
6. Marketing/PR
7. Jen mentioned how great it would be to have classroom blogs - we looked at LES' web site as an example; Mary Anne suggested ARHS as an example - Sharp School) which includes events, picture, information, schedule, articles