

**SES School Council Meeting
March 10, 2015**

Attendees

Debbie Lee, Jackie Mendonsa, Renee Richards, Ann Shea, Jennifer Swender

Minutes

1. Shout Outs (All)

- a. Well done to Renee Richards for taking 5th and 6th graders snowshoeing as part of a science rotation.
- b. Jessica Carlson-Belanger is proving herself indispensable. Jackie reports that she manages to stay on top of everything and makes running the school easier.

2. PARCC Update (Mendonsa/All)

Jackie Mendonsa held an information session about the new PARCC assessments for parents on February 24. Her presentation included the history of the Common Core and PARCC, samples of the types of questions students will see, and a review of the efforts the staff is taking to prepare students for the test. A discussion followed that included questions about the much reported difficulty of the test (as compared with MCAS), the possibility of opting out, and whether SES has the technology resources to successfully conduct the tests online (a requirement in 2016).

3. Community Survey (All)

The group reviewed a revised draft of the School Council Community Survey that reflected the changes made at the February 10 meeting. The revised layout and questions work well. Deb Lee will make additional edits before the survey is rolled out during parent-teacher conferences (April 8-9 and 14-15) at which time terminals will be available to parents to complete the survey before or after their conference(s). The Survey will also be available online. Notification will go out to the community via an announcement in the Roadtown and on the school web site and a memo to parents in the take-home folders.

4. School Improvement Plan (Mendonsa/All)

The Council reviewed the goals of the current School Improvement Plan (SIP) as a starting point for the 2015-2016 school year SIP. The new Plan should be a working document useful to the SES staff. Council members were in agreement that its first major goal should relate exclusively to creating a school environment that develops strong academic skills. This would include mapping the curriculum and aligning resources to the Common Core standards; developing and implementing RTI protocol; and in-depth professional development and staff collaboration. The second major goal will relate to promoting students' creative and interpersonal skills and connections to the community. Discussion of SIP goals and actions will continue at future meetings.

The School Council will next meet on Tuesday, April 14.