

Site Council Notes March 12, 2008

In attendance: Andrea Trasher, Jon Bicknell, Julie Colantoni, Sue Green, Nick Iannone, Connie Jones, Karen Mangiacotti, Margaret Nicholson, Caryn O'Toole

Today we talked about School wide events:

- Waveland PJ Party- raised \$3,100. It was really great goodwill; the teachers loved it, and was a lot of fun. Andrea has followed up with a teacher from Waveland for setting up potential pen pals, and look for other ways to continue to connect.
- The principal's coffee – Topic – Literacy was successful, with another coming in April. This one will focus on how they will look at the whole child for placing a child and for the services available. Becky Lehaie could be a potential speaker if available.
- Read Across America- Parents volunteered to read lines and counted votes for the kid's favorite Dr. Seuss books. Community readers also participated and were popular, next year more readers would be great.
- Winter carnival March 18th - the building's going to be open. It's going to be a huge fundraiser with silent auction bidding in the halls. Last year, there were only hallways for the event, but this year, we'll be able to use the classrooms to set up activities.
- Dave Biedrzycki, March 31st - April 2nd - He's an author/illustrator, and looking forward to having him, he's very humorous.

Other topics discussed:

Kindergarten registration / Full Day K - registration was due February 16th, but people are still registering. We're at about 160, down from 180, meaning the forecasts that were given were correct. The current budget reflects that one half day kindergarten has been cut. Memorial will have four half day AMs, four half day PMs and a full day kindergarten class. We talked about the possibility of adding an additional full day kindergarten. Right now, there's a large waiting list, maybe 40 people or so. Budget concerns are always a question they are not sure if it could happen on the current budget. Fortunately, studies show that the affluent communities are not as affected as much by not having all day K as much as less affluent communities are. Sue remarked that it might be easier to deliver curriculum in a full day rather than having two classes. She often feels bad for students who don't get as much social time and individualized attention in a half day session. The Strategic Plan calls for addressing the addition of Full Day classes during the 09 school year. Council members stated that the goal for full day programs should be listed in the School Improvement Plan for the upcoming year. In the future, space is not be as significant an issue. We will have more space as the enrollment figures decrease, they have the materials, but

would need money to pay for the extra staff time. Everyone thought that Medfield should be ahead of the curve, which we are currently not

There was a discussion about budget. Andrea, obviously would like to maintain the current class size as teachers and parents realize the big difference between 18 and 24 kids in a classroom.

- Placement Letter from Bob Maguire - April 4th is the deadline for placement letters. Andrea highlights these letters and then inputs into the database along with input from the teachers. Someone remarked that much like a seating chart at a wedding, it's very difficult. Julie remarked that she has seen it from both a teacher and now administrator side and realizes how much work and thought goes into this process and how administrators take a lot of care in doing so. This year Memorial has developed a checklist for local preschool teachers to complete on students entering kindergarten. They want to make it simple which will help everyone with placement. The form is a checklist with space for including a narrative for concern.
- Next Site Council meeting May 14 – Everyone is invited to bring ideas for school improvement. – Andrea will email out bullet points about the improvement plan. Anyone is welcome to contribution ideas.
- Caryn brought up birthday celebrations at Memorial; she has heard concerns about keeping food out of the classrooms at Wheelock. There are questions and concerns about food allergies, weight issues, and health concerns. Andrea would pass it on. She said it was fine with her, but she will have to discuss it with Patty Allen.