

J. C. Solmonese School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 2010 April 14

Time: 6:30pm

Location: JCS Room 165

1. Survey

- 1.1. Subjects not discussed at previous meeting due to time restrictions –
 - 1.1.1. Council member Mark inquired what methods of differentiated instruction are used within individual classrooms
 - 1.1.1.1. Reading – subgroups
 - 1.1.1.2. Assistant teachers are helpful in this regard but not absolutely necessary
 - 1.1.1.3. Grouping is flexible at the youngest grades because research shows that categorizing children extensively at too young an age is counter-productive
 - 1.1.1.4. It was decided that this issue does not warrant a specific survey question
 - 1.1.2. Math curriculum currently in use – Math Expressions – spirals. Generally teachers seem to like this curriculum.
 - 1.1.3. Massachusetts was recently Number 1 in both 4th and 8th grade nationally in standardized math testing
 - 1.1.4. Professional Learning Communities – teachers meet
- 1.2. Council member proposed to include, in the cover letter to the survey, a note asking parents to fill out one survey per child, because different grades might provoke different responses
- 1.3. The council discussed whether or not to include a question about the busing schedule
 - 1.3.1. It was decided that we already know it's a problem, and we'll include it on the school improvement plan
- 1.4. Dates
 - 1.4.1. Surveys will go out the Monday after April vacation
 - 1.4.2. Surveys will be collected from teachers Monday, May 3rd
 - 1.4.3. The council will meet again to assess the survey responses and write a bullet summary to send to parents

2. School Improvement Plan

- 2.1. Mrs. Bolton has begun drafting a School Improvement Plan

3. Placement

- 3.1. Council member Leann stated her belief that the teachers should place the kids for the following year, because they know the kids best

- 3.2. Mrs. Bolton says she is inclined to approve the teachers' placement decisions unless there is a clear and compelling reason to make a change
- 3.3. Mrs. Bolton plans to send a questionnaire to parents for help with placement
- 3.4. Students repeating grades (Part 2ers) were clustered this year to build up their confidence. This apparently worked too well in some cases where groups of "Part 2ers" scorned some kids as "rookies"

Documents Distributed by Mrs. Bolton at the meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of the previous meeting

Next Meeting: 2010 May 12, 6:00pm, JCS School Room 165

Minutes written by Mark Powers