

**Lawrence School
School Council**

**MINUTES
January 6, 2009**

Members Present: Anu Advani, Sarah Axelrod, Monica Crowley, Kelly Hardebeck, Alicia Hsu, Danielle Kent, Stephanie Leung, Rick Rogers, Kate Shea, Kate Silbaugh, Carlyn Uyenoyama, Laura Walters

Others Present: Priscilla Karnovsky (Parent)

Environmental Education Subcommittee Report (Kelly, Laura, Alicia, Anu)

The subcommittee reviewed materials from Lincoln School. The school has a small garden that includes plots by grade level. Classes sign-up to share responsibility for the garden. Their plan also incorporates much more than a garden (environmental education on nearby school property).

Lincoln PTO has a long-standing Landscaping Committee and the PTO purchased tools to maintain the school garden. Landscape Architect Randolph Miekeljohn advised the group on site location.

The subcommittee recommends focusing our plan on a simple and manageable garden. The hope is that Friends of Lawrence Park can assist with care of the garden during the summer. Ideally, the Friends might be able to enlist new Lawrence parents as members, as many members are currently former parents. Mary Dewart would advise on how to conceal the garden on our site. A suggestion was made to seek involvement of the Brookline Recreation Summer Camp in caring for the garden.

Next Steps:

1. Prepare a written proposal and present to faculty for feedback.
2. Expand committee to include other faculty members.

Communications Subcommittee (Sarah, Laura, Kate Shea, Carlyn, Stephanie)

The group presented a rough draft of a survey. The plan would be for most surveys to be completed on-line, but to offer paper surveys. The committee would like to elicit feedback from staff on the survey.

Survey will be translated into Japanese, with other languages to be determined (based on numbers of families who speak that language).

Rick will provide a question about Open House format.

Ideas were discussed for outreach specifically to Low Income, ELL, and METCO families, including: personal phone calls, providing an opportunity to complete the

survey at school with assistance, or going into the community (e.g. SET-J meeting, METCO office in Boston)

The council provided feedback that suggested the survey should be simplified. Discussion included which questions we really need the data for, as well as the pros and cons of open-ended questions vs. numeric rating questions.

Next Steps

The subcommittee will rework the draft based on feedback and send it out electronically to Council members for additional comment prior to February meeting.

School Improvement Plan Addendum

Rick has submitted the Improvement Plan Addendum to Deputy Superintendent Julie Hackett. Copies were distributed to the Council and to the entire faculty. The January Principal's Forum will provide an opportunity for other parents to learn about the plan.

Upcoming Agenda

- Process for Identification of 2009-2010 Goals
- New template for new School Improvement Plan and proposed timeline for completion.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 3 – 8:00 am

Remaining Meeting Schedule – Tuesdays 8:00-9:00 am

March 10

April 7

May 12

June 9