

***Lawrence School***  
**School Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**September 22 2009**

**Members Present:** Anu Advani, Monica Crowley, Kelly Hardebeck, Rachel Katzmann, Danielle Kent, Stephanie Leung, Joanna Lieberman, Rick Rogers, Kate Shea, and Kate Silbaugh

**Others Present:** Angela Lee (Parent) and Melissa Mills (Parent)

**Introductions & Membership**

Rick welcomed new members Joanna Lieberman (parent) and Rachel Katzmann (teacher) and thanked returning members for agreeing to serve another year. Rick is recruiting another teacher representative and seeking suggestions for a community representative. Kate Shea offered one suggestion for a community rep. Also discussed was finding someone associated with a nearby university (e.g. Wheelock). It was also suggested that we check with other schools in Brookline to find out who is serving as community representatives.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Rick described how the primary function of school council is to act in an advisory capacity to the principal in the development of school improvement goals. He also highlighted school council as the one group in a school that brings parents and teachers together to talk about “big picture” issues in a school. If you would like more detailed information on the role of school councils, go to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’ website:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/advisory/schoolcouncils/default.html>

**Election of Co-Chair**

Rick thanked Kelly Hardebeck for serving as co-chair last year. He suggested that the Council continue to elect a parent co-chair in order to maintain educator/parent balance on the Council.

Kate Silbaugh volunteered to serve and was elected School Council Co-Chair for the 2009-10 school year.

**AYP Status**

Rick presented an introduction to Lawrence Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) data. Key points:

- Lawrence continues to score Very High (90.9) in ELA and High (87.9) in Mathematics.
- For the third year in a row, Lawrence did not achieve AYP for one subgroup – students with special needs. This puts us in “Improvement Year 2 – Subgroups.”
- There are gaps in performance for Special Education students (which is a large enough group to count as a “subgroup”) and low income students (whose group size is too small to be included in AYP).
- This gap is wider in Mathematics than in ELA.

Rick also described how, under NCLB, low income students will now be eligible for free private tutoring paid by Title I funds due to our improvement status.

The group raised some questions and suggestions for future consideration:

- How do our CPI compare to previous years? (Done annually as part of our data analysis).
- Gr. 4 scores are lower state-wide, but are Gr. 4 scores lower than other schools in Brookline?

- What is the impact of the system-wide program on our special education subgroup's performance?
- Are there more students with special needs who should be taking MCAS-Alt? (No)
- Can we compare the performance of students with special needs who receive pullout services for math vs. inclusion services?
- Can we analyze performance on different types of questions? (Yes).

### School Improvement Plan

The group quickly reviewed the key action items in the School Improvement Plan in order to determine which goals require a working group. At our next meeting, we will revisit this question.

	Action Item	Who?	Parent/School Council Role
1.	Professional Learning Community	Faculty & Faculty Planning Team	
2.	Gr. 6-8 Cohesive Middle School.	6/7/8 Team in CPT	Parent Feedback on Open House, Electives and Advisory
3.	K-2 Articulation	K-2 PLC	Parent feedback on K-2 expectations and transitions.
4.	Differentiated Instruction	BEF Grant Group	
5.	Safe, Just and Caring Community	6/7/8 Advisory Faculty	Consider Working Group?
6.	Improve Inclusion Practices	Landmark Core Group	
7.	Child Study Team	Summer Workshop and CST members	
8.	Student Mentors	For 2010-11.	
9.	School Vision	School Council Faculty Planning Team	Entire Council or Working Group?
10.	School Garden	Faculty, Parent Volunteers	Working Group Needed
11.	Intervention Program	Classroom Teachers, Literacy & Math Specialists	
12.	Data Team	To be formed	

### Homework:

For our next meeting, please read and be ready to discuss the concept of vision:

- *Does This School Really Have A Vision?* By Judy Coddington
- *Developing a Vision and Strategy from Leading Change* by John Kotter

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 6 – 8:00 am**