

**Lawrence School
School Council**

**MINUTES
September 23, 2008**

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

Welcome, Roles & Responsibilities

Rick welcomed and thanked members for agreeing to serve on School Council this year. He distributed excerpts from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on the roles and responsibilities of School Council. Members may go to the DESE website for additional details. He also informed members that the district would be providing training sessions for all new council members, principals and co-chairs. Rick outlined his vision for school council as the place to talk about the “big picture” of what kind of school we want Lawrence to be. He also noted the importance of teachers and parents meeting and discussing these issues together.

Election of Co-Chair

Kelly Hardebeck volunteered to continue as Co-Chair and was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Previous School Council Work

Rick asked returning members (Sarah, Kelly, and Laura) to describe what had worked and not worked in previous years with School Council. The group felt that having defined and manageable projects was key and noted that it worked well to have subgroups from the Council meet and work on their projects in between monthly meetings with the full council. They also noted Dr. Lupini’s efforts to define the roles of school councils.

Rick reminded the group of the open meeting law. Generally the last few minutes of the meetings were left open for public comment.

Alan Cameron had done minutes. Rick asked that this task be rotated monthly.

AYP Update

Rick described Lawrence’s AYP Status of Improvement – Year One (Subgroups – Special Education). He explained that one-half of the schools in the state were under some sort of accountability status. This status obligates the school council to develop a revised School Improvement within three months.

Discussion followed. Questions included: Whether other subgroups had an achievement gap (Low Income – but not large enough to be counted as a subgroup) and how portfolios for alternative assessment were calculated into special education AYP.

School staff will complete much of the work of individual student data analysis, but the School Council will be able to review the overall data and will help determine improvement steps for the revised School Improvement Plan.

Review of School Improvement Plan Goals

Goal #1 Student Achievement: This goal is ongoing. Jim Swaim and Dianne Muendel did most of the work with the assistance of other school staff in completing a review of the data. The focus of this goal was on open response questions, goal setting for individual students, and providing support for the Individual Student Success Plans.

Goal #2 Communication:

This goal in its third year focused on reaching out to underrepresented parent groups, such as METCO and ELL parents. This goal was linked to the PTO.

Goal #3: Service Learning

Focus of this group was on providing community service related to the environment and the school's grounds. Mary Dewart (Friends of Lawrence Park), science teacher Ryan Keser, and former teacher Mark McAneny played leadership roles.

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

October 14
November 4
December 9
January 6
February 3
March 10
April 7
May 12
June 9