

**Lawrence School
School Council
MINUTES
October 6, 2009**

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

School Updates

1. Landmark School Outreach Program Partnership gets underway today with classroom observations by Landmark consultants and tomorrow (10/7) with grade level team planning sessions. Gr. 4-6 are involved.
2. Instructional Rounds at Lawrence – October 19: Lawrence will be initial site for the district’s Instructional Rounds initiative, meaning that 48 people from across the district will come to Lawrence on October 19. They will learn about our “Problem of Practice” and then spend 2 hours observing in classrooms (12 teams of 4 observers). The team will then sift through the observational notes, identify patterns, and make recommendations for next steps.
3. MCAS Results to Parents – October 2: Results come in a new format this year – oversized paper that incorporates parental information included in a small green booklet in prior years. Rick will be presenting results at the Oct. 22 Principal’s Forum and can include a “How to Read Your Child’s Report” if there is sufficient answer.
4. Supplemental Educational Services (Free Tutoring): A letter will go out this week to low income families eligible for SES tutoring under NCLB. Private tutoring companies provide this service and are approved by the state. Funding comes from a “set-aside” of our Title I allocation.

Developing A Vision for Lawrence School

Members shared their reactions to two readings:

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

Some points discussed:

- Some members have had experience working on strategic planning committees that came up with visions that were inspiring, but hard to actually connect to classrooms in ways that would provide concrete benefits for students.
- Some members have worked for companies that developed visions that ended up in a “binder on the shelf, never to be revisited.” How can we avoid this at Lawrence?
- Can we develop focus groups including teachers, parents and students to contribute their ideas for what would make an ideal school? (This could be brought to classrooms in the form of a lesson, or an advisory conversation in 6/7/8).
- We need to make sure decisions are driven by the needs of students.
- We need to be clear about how the vision will be used.
- We as a school council will develop sample visions and demo the creation process together, so prepare for performing this task as a community in the future.

Homework:

- Write a vision for your ideal school (paragraph or bullet points). Send it to Rick by the morning of Monday, October 26.
- Optional: Research and bring samples of other school vision statements.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27 – 8:00 am

Vision Criteria Comparisons

| Codding | Kotter |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achievable/Doable• Focused on results and leads to accountability• Measurable• Simple and clear• Actionable• Lends itself to developing a clear strategy for making the vision possible• Leads to hard choices• Worth fighting for | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imaginable: Conveys a picture of what the future will look like.• Desirable: Appeals to long term interests of stakeholders• Feasible: Realistic, attainable goals• Focused: Clear enough to provide guidance in decision-making• Flexible: General enough to allow individual initiative and response to changing conditions• Communicable: Can be explained within five minutes. |