

# Parents Association

September 7, 2011

Minutes taken by Melissa Freitas and reviewed by Lisa Harvey-Mone

**Meeting called to order at 7:01pm**

**June meeting minutes reviewed and approved.**

## **Presentation by Rick Small, high school teacher, Dean of Students**

Rick is aware of some concerns of older and younger students being in the same building. He is very proud of the way that the students interact with one another. The worse thing he has seen is a high school student ignoring a Level I student.

85% of the students in the high school go all 4 years without ever getting written up. The biggest discipline problem is with cell phones.

Ground rule in the high school is respect at all times.

142 students in the high school, 9th grade has 10 new students, 10th grade has 2 new students, 11th grade has 1 new student

Poetry Slam - one will be on the Day of the Arts. The students will do one for the Board and Rick can arrange one for the PA if desired. Most likely in the winter.

### **Q&A**

*Do students ever come back after graduation and say that the school was too small?*

No - most say that the school prepared them well for life after high school. The required public speaking helps set them up to succeed.

## **School Reports**

### **Alicia Savage, Executive Director**

Great opening week even though many families were without power

Some changes in building: new roof, new skylights, new solar tubes in one classroom (if these work well, more will be added in other rooms), Samsung Tech boards, laptop cart, iPad cart (donated by the Hingham/Hull Rotary Club).

New Technology Director - Ralph Degennero (Rio)

New Website will be maintained by Jo Feldman.

September 19 - school closed - faculty professional development

Road Race on October 15.

### **Ted, K-6 Principal**

Label all clothes

2 new teachers for Level I students - Maria Lappas subbing for Spanish teacher Karina's maternity leave and Geoff Roman, new music teacher for 7-12

Some staff recently lost family members; Beth Dodge and Joyce Dandrow lost their father and father-in-law and Karen Yelin lost her father-in-law.

FIT (Focused Instructional Time)

45 minutes a day for students in Grades 3-6

Specialized per child to allow them to receive extra help or to excel

2 recess per day for Level I

2 PE classes a week for Level II

Open Houses - Levels II & III Tuesday 9/13, Level I Wednesday 9/14, Level IV & HS Thursday 9/15. Prefer that students not attend.

## Q&A

*Why do we start school before Labor Day?*

This question was put in the parking lot.

*How is it decided where the students go for FIT time? Will it expand? Do the kids get input on where they go?*

It is based on each child's need as to where they go. It will probably change 3X a year to allow different things for kids. Unknown if it will expand. The children get input within reason.

*How are children taught about bullying?*

Grades K-6 use Open Circle to discuss it. Grades 7-12 do so in advisory

*Spanish Curriculum - some kids are more interested in it than others - why not separate those kids out?*

Levels 1&2 remain multiage for Spanish but Level III has split out their 5th and 6th grades so that they are not repeating things for 2 years. As for the younger grades - repetition is good.

## **Emily Merwin, Acting 7-12 Principal, Level IV Coordinator, Level IV Science**

Administration works very hard and is very cohesive

New teachers: Jamie Allen, Erin Dempsey, Geoff Roman, Terry Lynch, Joe Kay, Walter Duncan, Matt Tondorf, Nicole Peterson, Jess Lincoln

New Roles in School: Rachel Jones now ESL, Jared Rose now SPED ELA, Bev Bruce now back to Levels II & III

## Q&A

*Do students come to the Open House?*

Preferred that they do not.

*Sky Drive - will kids be retrained?*

There were some problems - the feedback was not great. It has not been ruled out but they are looking at other options.

*Ed Line - when will the parents have access? What info will be on it? Do all teachers use it?*

Level IV students will be getting their access codes soon. Homeroom teachers can give the parents the info they need. There are 2 accounts, one for the student and one for the parents. All homework & grades will be on it. There will be no comments on their report cards - all comments will be on edline only. The new teachers are being trained on it now - all should be using it.

## **Colin Perry, Student Representative**

The students are all excited about the new school year.

High school students will be selling food and providing music at the back to school picnic.

## **Treasurer's Report - Elissa Dennis**

PA raises money for the school but also gets to distribute money

2X a year people request funds; a task force meets and decides which requests to put on a list.

PA votes on that list as a whole

If you want to be on the task force speak to Elissa - one parent from each Level and the 2 principals.

Deadline is September 22 for requests

## **Grade Reports**

*New format - explained by Kerry Griffin: This year we would like to streamline the reports. Be concise but give longer written report to secretary to be added to the minutes. When possible, grade reps on the same level should coordinate their reports.*

**Kindergarten** - great first week. All students need a complete change of labeled clothes in their locker. Send in a labeled blanket in a sealed back for rest time.

**1st Grade** - What your first/second Grader Needs to Know books went home on Tuesday. Weekly

homework went home on Monday. Weekly homework is due every Friday. Right now it consists of reading to your child for 15 minutes a night, a log to record that reading and a sheet of handwriting. This will change as the year goes on. Math homework goes home each weekday and is due the following day.

**2nd Grade** - Thanks for a smooth first week. Reminder - classrooms are not open before 8am. If you need to drop your child off before 8am you must contact Judy Pritchard about the early morning program. Nora needs contact information for her parents. The next few weeks will be mostly review of material from last year. Do not worry when your student is bringing home last year's work.

**3rd Grade** - Projects have been announced. They will rotate every trimester.

**5th & 6th Grade** - New level Coordinators Joyce Dandrow (learning services specialist) and Mac Haran (math and science teacher) are making exciting changes and are interested in input. The changes include: Edline will be used - homework will be posted weekly. There is a magazine rack in front of Joyce's office. Extra copies of homework are available as a self help resource. Pod "captains" are re-writing the job descriptions for level officers. The election will be in the next couple of weeks. Mac is hoping to have an after school opportunity for candidates to prepare campaign material. FIT - the courses offered at this time will run in 6 week cycles. More information will be available at the Level III back to school night on Tuesday, 9/13 from 6-7:30. The first Level III coffee will be November 1 from 8:20-9:20.

**9th Grade** - The high school institute (2 days the week before school started) went well as an ice-breaker and general introduction to the high school.

This has been the smoothest start of school for some years. All new teachers seem to be settling in well. There are ten 9th grade students/families new to the school. Gema (grade rep) is working on contacting them. She has already had 2 families inquire about volunteering. Back to school night for the HS is Thursday, 9/15, 6-7:30pm.

## SEPAC

Meeting the 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month at 8:30am.

New website: <https://sites.google.com/site/sscpssepac/home>

Meeting dates and locations are located on the website. Some meetings are at the school while others take place at Panera Bread near the Hanover Mall.

New brochure will be available soon.

Matt Tondorf will be hosting a Basic Rights workshop. Date TBD.

All meetings are open to everyone.

Each meeting allots time for an open forum for parents/guardians to discuss any concerns or questions they may have related to their child's educational needs.

## Committee Reports

**Arts & Music** - met with SS Conservatory about bringing programs to the school.

**Fundraising** - monthly restaurant fundraising days. Working on possibly bringing back Touch-a-Truck. Committee members needed.

**Library** - the 2 chairs run the whole library. There is no set opening date as they are working on an automation process. Volunteers needed. Trying to simplify the work for the volunteers and implementing a process of where volunteers will assigned an area of the library to maintain.

Q&A

*Is help needed to get the automation up and running?*

It has not been decided what program to use but volunteers will be needed once it is in place.

*Will it remain closed until the new system?*

Undetermined at this time.

*Summer Reading - is there a way to set up a spot in the library for the summer reading books parents may*

*not need anymore?*

Not really as the library does not allow books to be taken out after the first of June so taking out books for the summer is not a possibility. Mary Foster said that she will organize a summer reading book swap.

**Welcoming** - New to school parents or new to Level parents if you want to hook up with current parents in your grade or level for information let Maureen know and she will put you in touch with someone. Maureen's email is mhebert@metlife.com. Volunteers will be needed for the 2 open houses that happen throughout the year. Back to school picnic has been rescheduled due to rain for Friday 9/9. Suggests that every grade have a social to promote community.

**Community Service** - Some upcoming community service opportunities: Happy Tails Walk for the Scituate Animal Shelter, Brain Tumor Walk, Breast Cancer walk. Contact Beth Toma for more information.

**Volunteer** - Form in the weekly update. Jessica will enter all information into a spreadsheet for reference for when volunteers are needed. Jessica also logs volunteer hours from the sheet at the front desk so be sure to log in all of your hours.

### **New Business**

**Harvest Road Race** - Volunteers needed both on the day of the event and beforehand. Friday before event Marathon sports will let us give out the race numbers and bags for registrants. All students will be given a sponsor form. Any students that gets sponsors will be given community service hours. There will be a contest for three pizza parties for the classes that raise the most money (Level I & II, Level III & IV, High school).

**New meeting format** - trying to make meetings more concise. If grade reps or committee chairs have reports, give them to the secretary and get your name on the list. **PARKING LOT** - we will use this as a place to put information that will require more time than the current meeting will allow. All parking lot items will be listed on the minutes and will be discussed again or the item will be passed on to the appropriate person as not all items are PA related.

**Technology Committee** - will oversee the website. We need to have a special election and vote to create the committee at October's meeting. If you are interested in chairing please tell Lisa.

**School Council & Education Committee** - both need parent reps. Talk to Lisa Harvey-Mone for more information.

### **Committee Fair**

New idea for PA - give people a chance to talk to the Chairs of the Committees that they may be interested on joining. The first Committee Fair was very successful, and we will have another one at our October meeting.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Parking Lot** - Items placed in the parking lot will be looked into by the 4 officers of the PA. If items need to be passed on to someone else in the school, they will be and it will be announced at the next PA meeting. If item is something that should be discussed at the PA it will be placed on the agenda for next month.

Why do we start school before Labor Day?

Why can't the library open up before the technology is set up?