

Bromfield School Council

Minutes of the Meeting of October 6, 2009

Present: Jim OShea, Scott Hoffman, Deb Pierce, Gary Menin, Jeff Harris, Ted Stefanik, Anne Marie Rowse, Terry Symula, Ellen Sachs Leicher

School Committee Representative: Stu Sklar

Unable to Attend: Tom Hill, Bob Thurston, Catina Barbieri, Andrew Hong, Andrea D'Ermano, Jack Landry

Principal's Update

Scott gave the principal's report and provided information on the following school activities:

- Coffee Photography, new to Bromfield, took the school pictures. They unfortunately couldn't take the pictures outdoors due to the weather. Retakes will be indoors as well.
- Peer Mentoring program has gotten off the ground. 9-12 grades will mentor grades 6-8. Parents will be able to sign up their middle schooler on line.
- Critical Thinking and 21st Century Skills is the focus of this year's teacher development. The goal is for the school to have 6-8 skills that the teachers will implement and use to assess student progress. This list of skills is currently being developed with input from teachers by department. This work is being done in line with the school's strategic plan.
- Several students attended the James Otis lecture in Boston with Mr. Foster..
- The Bromfield Open House went well. Attendance appeared to be a little down from prior years. It was conjectured that it might be due to no longer having to sign up in person for November conferences
- Conference sign up is on line on October 14th. Slots will be for 5 or 10 minutes. Due to the compressed calendar with conferences now on half school days (where in the past the days were off), there is less time for conferences. Deb Pierce asked that the Stu Sklar bring this calendar decision back to the School Committee for re-examination for next year. The shortened time frame and the lack of sufficient evening hours will make this unworkable for parents and for teachers. There are not enough slots for all parents and many parents cannot make daytime conferences.
- Grades 7-9 had their first dance of the year hosted by the Senior Class
- Progress reports are due by October 13th
- Guidance has had two meetings for parents regarding the college process. They are also holding meetings with seniors on the use of Naviance
- Upcoming events: Band concert, Choral concert and Ciderhouse at Fruitlands sponsored by the Bromfield Review.

Student Update: None as there were no students were present at the meeting.

Committee Updates:

Community Services Subcommittee: The Committee reviewed the changes to the program which were made based on the feedback received last year from the students and the judges. The program has a little more structure, a rubric for the students and judges to use, a revised proposal form and a new requirement of a reflections paper (a page or two). The Committee has met and discussed what is considered a community service project and what isn't. The Committee reviewed several student proposals and will be reviewing more this week. Juniors will probably be notified that they can begin their projects in December (though their presentation will still be at the end of their Senior year), based on the feedback received from the Climate Survey.

Climate Subcommittee: The Committee will be meeting to review the responses from all three surveys – parents, students and teachers. They will be looking at the written comments in more depth. They will be examining any differences across the three surveys.

Extracurricular Subcommittee: They met prior to the School Council meeting and discussed user fees. There is interest in developing a booster club to support all school activities, sports and non-sports. More information will be sought on what other booster clubs in other towns have been able to do. Discussion also centered on requesting some funding in the town budget to offset some of the user fees as well.

MCAS Data and Questions:

Jim O'Shea distributed some information on the results of the recent MCAS, comparing data from the prior year and results since the MCAS' inception for each grade cohort. At this point there was discussion around how to read and interpret the data. There will be more discussion at a later date.

New Business

For discussion at next meeting: Communication channels. With the addition of Edline, do we have too much information that might be confusing parents.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27th at 3:00

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Sachs Leicher