

# Bromfield School Council

Agenda 11/10/09

**Present:** Andrea D'Eramo, Jeff Harris, Catina Barbieri, Andrew Hong, Ellen Sachs Leicher, Gary Menin, Jim O'Shea, Terry Symula

**Unable to Attend:** Tom Hill, Scott Hoffman, Bob Thurston, Ted Stefanik, Scott Hoffman, Deb Pierce, Stu Sklar, Anne Marie Rowse

## Principals' Update

Mr. O'Shea reports that:

Today the 8<sup>th</sup> grade went on a field trip to Salem.

Last weekend the Drama Society performed *Alarms and Excursions*. They will again be performing this weekend.

The school hosted a very successful Veterans Day breakfast organized by students Jake Basile and Scott Broadbent.

Although school will not be in session on Veterans Day, teachers will be in attendance and participate in a professional development day.

Most teams are in the playoffs. The girl's and boy's soccer team finals are this week.

The swine flu has been impacting the school.

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade has been especially hard hit.
- Teachers have not been significantly impacted therefore school will remain open.
- School policies regarding the flu are on the website, students should not return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours.
- Teachers are being flexible with grading and are giving incompletes when necessary.
- Last weekend's play was preformed by several understudies so that the show could go on.

Report cards will be issued on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Teacher conferences are schedule for the Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Student Update

**Team Spirit** - A discussion about the ways that teams demonstrate team spirit was continued from the last meeting. Different perspectives were expressed. Teachers want to be certain that the efforts to bolster spirit do not get in the way of learning. Students want to be certain the teams can continue to show pride for their team. The administration wants the spirit demonstrations to be safe, respectful and non disruptive. The discussion will continue.

**NYC Trip** - Preliminary feedback indicates that interest in the NYC 11<sup>th</sup> grade trip is waning. (Last year the trip was cancelled due to lack of interest.) For some the trip is too expensive. Others believe that they cannot afford to miss the school and study time. There was discussing about moving the trip to earlier or later in the year or to another grade. There was also discussion about other day trips to bring the grade together

**Model UN** - Andrew reports that Model UN is going very well. There are more students participating than can participate in the January meeting. The registration fees for students and advisors are being paid for by the Harvard Schools Trust. (*A grant was submitted and approved by Ms. Mattie in June.*)

## **Committee Updates**

**Community Service** - New guidelines for Community Service projects will be issued on December 1<sup>st</sup>. These guidelines will allow students to begin their project before their senior year.

**Climate** - A top view analysis of the Climate Survey was handed out. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

**Guidance** - The committee has met and reports that they will be meeting with the Guidance department to determine their role for each grade. As well they will work to better make use of the Naviance software.

It was suggested by a parent that it would be worthwhile to have parents of Bromfield graduates meet with parents of juniors and seniors to help them navigate the college application process. It was discussed that this would best be accomplished in an informal way similar to the mug and muffin approach. This could be sponsored by the school council.

**Extra-curricular** - This committee has been speaking with other communities to determine how they fund after school activities. The football gate and sports snack bar seem to be a significant way to raise funds

**Handbook** - No report.

## **New Business**

**Graduation Requirements** - The only graduation that will change at this time is that students need to pass the science MCAS. This change will be reflected in the handbook. We discussed the difference between Bromfield requirements and recommendations. It is recommended, but not required that all students take 2 years of a world language.

A discussion centered around the fact that often if a child gives up a language in middle school they do not pick it up in high school. Catina shared the approach in Woburn's high school. If possible she will share the curriculum with Mr. O'Shea. It was also discussed that a student needs to understand what colleges require in terms of classes. Generally the more prestigious colleges have more requirements for foreign language, math and science.

**Critical Thinking/21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills** - An inventory of critical thinking skills used in the classroom has been taken at Bromfield, and a list has been created. Teachers are in the process of identifying those areas for which they need additional training. A draft of *21<sup>st</sup> Century Critical Thinking Skills, The Bromfield School* follows these minutes.

Jeff Harris recommends *Asking the Right Questions – a Guide to Critical Thinking* by Neil Browne as a very good book on this topic.

## **New Business**

A meeting will be scheduled with LUK to preview results of the results of the Bromfield Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Symula

Next meetings - November 30<sup>th</sup> with the School Committee in the Bromfield Media Center  
December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the Bromfield teacher's lounge.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Critical Thinking Skills The Bromfield School

The faculty of The Bromfield School has worked collaboratively to identify this set of universal and required Critical Thinking/ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. This list, although still a draft, will be submitted as the final and formal list of critical thinking skills needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century referenced in the Harvard School District Strategic Plan. This combination of affective strategies, macro-abilities, and micro-skills was developed in part using the NCREL list of critical thinking skills (Paul, Binker, Jenson, and Krekla, 1990)

- Thinking Independently and Interdependently
- Developing Intellectual Integrity and Courage
- Refining Generalizations and Avoiding Oversimplifications
- Evaluating the Credibility of Sources of Information
- Comparing and Contrasting
- Making Interdisciplinary/Intradisciplinary Connections
- Expressing Oneself in a Compelling and Accurate Way
- Analyzing and Integrating Information
- Demonstrating Understanding Through Performance Based Tasks
- Developing One's Perspective and Understanding of Others
- Using Technology Effectively