

**Minuteman Regional High School
School Council Minutes
June 6, 2007**

Present: Jim Amara (Co-Chair), Dot Keyworth, George Blaszczynski, Joe Lahiff (Co-Chair), Pat Hansen, A.J. Loprete, Jeannie Jenkinson, Connie Maynard

Visitors: Tom Markham/Assistant Superintendent, Jack Dillon/Assistant Principal

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Co-Chairperson Joe Lahiff.

Minutes: A motion was made by Pat Hansen, seconded by Connie Maynard, to accept the revised minutes of April 26, 2007.

A motion was made by Pat Hansen, seconded by Connie Maynard, to accept the minutes of May 17, 2007.

Sub-committee Special Education Goal

A recommendation was made by Mr. Amara to include the Principal under "person responsible." Ms. Keyworth concurred and referred to Mr. Damon's comments regarding items considered to be important by the Special Education Sub-committee which also recommended that the Principal be involved, as the educational leader of the school, in consideration of substantive changes of program, curriculum, and instruction.

Mr. Markham shared a letter from Jane Costello, Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Following further discussion of this topic, a motion was made by Mr. Amara, seconded by Ms. Maynard, to reject the Special Education Goal in its entirety, and to provide guidelines as to why it was rejected. Voted unanimously; motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Keyworth, seconded by Ms. Hansen to communicate to the School Committee that the School Council had created a Special Education Sub-committee who tried hard to work with the Special Education Department for input on the special education goal to the School Improvement Plan, however, this did not happen, to the dissatisfaction of the School Council. Voted in favor: 7, Opposed – 1; motion carried.

School Improvement Plan – Final Update

A motion was made by Ms. Keyworth, seconded by Mr. Blaszczynski, to add a fourth action item to Goal #3: that the School Council appraise the communication and involvement of the school community in delivery of special education services to our students, with a timeline to report to the School Council quarterly, and person responsible will be the Principal. Voted unanimously; motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Hansen, seconded by Ms. Maynard, to accept the School Improvement Plan with changes to Goal #3 as stated above. Voted in favor – 7, Opposed – 1; motion carried.

School Handbook

Following a review of changes to the handbook, a motion was made by Mr. Blaszczynski, seconded by Mr. Loprete, to accepted the revised Student Handbook as presented. Voted unanimously; motion carried,

Mr. Dillon reported that he will present the Student Handbook to the School Committee at their June 19th meeting.

Presentation Date to School Committee – July 17

Mr. Lahiff stated that a presentation of the School Improvement Plan to the School Committee is scheduled for July 17th. He asked that as many members as possible plan to attend.

A motion was made by Mr. Blaszczynski, seconded by Ms. Keyworth, to present the School Improvement Plan to the School Committee at the June 19th meeting, rather than July 17th. Voted unanimously; motion carried. Mr. Lahiff will request a change to the June 19th School Committee agenda for this purpose.

Lockdown Update

Mr. Lahiff reported an unannounced lockdown will take place during the week of June 11th.

Policy Review

Mr. Lahiff referred to policy handouts on: Drug Free Work Place, Suspension and Expulsion Policy, and Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy. He doesn't feel the School Council can respond to these policies without a meeting to discuss them. He will relay this to the School Committee and ask for more time to review the policies.

Mr. Amara indicated that the Superintendent has asked for input from the School Council as to whether or not to hold school on Good Friday next year. He reported that this past year approximately 50% of students were absent. The consensus of the School Council is not to have school on Good Friday.

Mr. Lahiff shared that Dot Keyworth has asked to leave the School Council next year. He thanked her for her dedicated years of service on the Council.

Mr. Amara announced that on June 11th he will send a notice to the staff that he will not be returning next year, the major reason being that his contract was not renewed as Mr. Callahan feels the new Superintendent should choose his own administrative team.

Mr. Lahiff stated he will reach out to the new Superintendent to request a meeting with the School Council at his earliest convenience. He will also provide him with a copy of School Improvement Plan.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dot Keyworth, seconded by A.J. Loprete, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Voted unanimously; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Denaro
Recorder