

Chickering School Advisory Council (SAC)  
Draft Minutes for February 15, 2012  
Chickering School Conference room  
Started 3:35 p.m.  
Ended 4:35 p.m.

Attendance: Pam LoDato (co-chair), Pam Haggett (teacher rep), Chip Spalding (community rep), Temi Correll (parent rep), Laura Rinaldi (parent rep), Deb Reinemann (guest)

**Old Business:**

**SAC Spring Survey:**

Goals for the Survey: 1) Questions to be tied to SIP goals and areas where parent input is crucial to the decision outcomes. 2) Survey should be user friendly and take no more than 10 minutes to complete. 3) Key areas will include school safety, school climate, and the new math program enhancements (including the value of the online component).

Timetable of survey must match the SIP update and Dover School Committee meeting schedule. The Chickering administration will prepare a draft outline of the survey for discussion at the March SAC meeting. Members should send any proposed questions to Dr. Nugent prior to the next meeting.

**Middle School Readiness Skills:**

The fifth grade teachers have continued to integrate additional middle school readiness skills into the curriculum this year. The fifth grade teachers have expanded the amount of time they meet with the middle school teachers to further improve the information flow. All classes have individual binders as part of their executive function goals. Students are doing typing units and are given note taking instruction. Homework requirements will include some week-end work in the spring to prepare the students for next year. The Mingle in the Middle program is on the evening of June 6th and includes information sessions for both students and parents from Chickering and Pine Hill. One parent suggestion was to have the students work on using a combo lock in preparation for the very quick class changes at the Middle School. Additional summer reading recommendations would also be useful for the parents and students.

**Bus Safety Update:**

In follow-up to prior SAC meeting discussions, the Chickering administration met with the bus drivers and spoke with teachers about bus safety and behavior issues. The recently instituted bus blue ticket program has been successful in providing students an additional reason to self-police bus behavior.

**New Business:**

**SAC member selection process for 2012:**

SAC members generally serve for 1 year terms with the option to serve for an additional year. The position of a parent representative will be openly advertised through the PTO and direct parent communications. Applicants' names will then all be entered into a blind drawing, giving all an equal chance for the opportunity to serve on the council. All parents and members of the community are invited to attend the monthly meetings throughout the year.

It was recommended that a one page description of the job and it how it relates to the other school groups be sent out to parents both electronically and via backpack. The volunteer position opening should also be listed with the DMA and in new parent communications (including the Kindergarten info packs and open house).

**Community Comments:**

There was a community comment about the Chickering chorus singing at the town christmas tree lighting ceremony. There was some discomfort with the volunteer school group participating in an event related to a religious holiday.

There were also a number of community comments about how the Dover School Committee could better communicate their meeting agendas so interested parents would be able to participate in the community comment part of the meetings. The agendas are finalized only a few days before the meetings so information can not be published in the weekly community papers. Information is available on the DS website but the community members need to know to go there to get the information. This community concern will be shared directly with the Dover School Committee.

**The next meeting of the SAC is Wednesday, March 21st at 3:30.**