

School Council Notes- 11/18/13

Attendance: Michelle Alessandro, Marijane Benner Browne, Amelia Fattore, Eleanor Kinsella, Christopher Levasseur, Hannah Liu, Molly McCormick, Maeve Morse, John Smith, John Soraghan, Julie Washek, Nicole Zhou

Absent: Mrs. Handler

- Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.
- Still looking for a Sherborn Representative for School Council. Someone without kids in the HS; contact Mr. Smith if anyone is interested.
- Minutes from November 7th, 2013 were reviewed. Corrections: (spelling of Mr. Levasseur's name and FISCAL plan). Minutes were unanimously accepted.
- FY-15 FISCAL budget was discussed and the committee members looked at data showing the increased enrollment in the HS, but decrease enrollment in the MS.
 - This data is available to the PTO, parents and it is based on current classes and registration.
 - Our budget mainly depends on the number of students in the school system.
- Two different types of levels for budgets were discussed:
 - **Level Services:** maintain staff and services, natural increase in costs, utilities.
 - **Level Funding:** budgetary # from this year & transfer to next year, making cuts and reduction of staff.
- Mr. Smith and Mr. Bliss are still talking and working with the budget.
- Regional School Committee is working on what to do with capital & funding issues as well as increased responsibilities for staff and how to take in account the increased enrollment of students.
- Next School Council Meeting, Mr. Smith will have an update on how to maintain the level services and progress on the budget for the school system.
- Action steps for the School Improvement Plan were discussed:
 - The student survey from 2013 (last year) was looked at and questions 1-12 were looked at and discussed.
 - Discussion about having midyears and finals (notecards or not), having a variety of assessment (presentations, tests, projects, debates, quizzes etc.) and selection of academic classes (ex. the availability to have poetry be an elective instead of just a class)
 - School Council will break into a sub-committee to present the selection of academic classes to academic standards.
 - Question 4 about new technology courses was eliminated.
 - Vocal and Concert/Music Questions were removed, but kept one question about music ensembles.
- There was discussion about lockers, binder requirements and backpack weight.
- There was discussion about possibly switching the HS time & MS time to the elementary school time, but this would change the bus and transportation systems as well as sports and other extra-curricular activities.
- Adjournment at 4:52 pm