

Dover Sherborn Middle School
School Advisory Council
November 19, 2013
Meeting Minutes

1 **Welcome**

- Present: S. Kellet, Joanne Draper, Kristen Dummer, Kelsey Ferranti, Erin Gorden, Rebecca Graf, Karyn Kaplan, Sushil Kumar, Julie McKee, Kim Phelan, Anita Sebastian, Kathy Sveen

2 **Approval of Minutes**

- Approved

3 **Handbook**

- Members were urged to make note of community feedback
- Discussed A+ grade at the MS
- Discussed MS student cell phone use and storage during school hours
- Discussed the absence of class rank at the HS

4 **School Improvement Plan**

- School Committee is in the process of developing a budget for next year - the direction is to keep costs as low as possible

5 **Parent and Student Survey Results**

- 2nd term report cards will include a supplement with more grade related information
- Discussed real-time grading pros and cons
- Discussed the need to evaluate school changes before they are put into place
- Discussed the fact that not all families have computer/internet access
- Discussed the two common recurring themes of the survey: communication and report cards
- Discussed whether going "tech" is a benefit - vs. paper in backpacks
- Discussed the idea that paper copies should be made available to students/families with no computer/internet
- How to get school news and happenings out to all families?
- Idea for above question - Click to verify if families receive, make calls to those who don't reply
- Discussed moving all websites to Aspen (simplify)

- Discussed website and wiki use - the message is loud and clear; it is inconsistent and too hard to navigate and find teachers' info
- Discussed cost of changing to another carrier - cost and anxiety would be high
- Discussed setting up a "dummy" site so that people can see what a student, parent, and teacher actually see when they go to their Aspen account
- Discussion - should the survey be tweaked and reissued?
- It is typical to send a survey at beginning and end of year
- Discussed sending out, again, in June since we have a baseline (1st survey response)
- Discussion - should we change the survey?
- Discussion - let people know that data collected from 1st survey is being used
- Discussion - we want people to know that we care. We will use 1 or 2 themes and say, "this is what we are going to work on or try to do better" (example: teacher conferences) in hopes that people will respond to the next survey

6 **Other Business**

- It was agreed that we would look at the survey at next meeting
- Which questions should we keep?
- We will want to look at trends and be consistent
- We will add new questions (ex: technology) at the end of survey
- Should we dismiss outliers?
- Next meeting - December 17, 2013, 3:15, MS conference room

7 **Adjourn**