



The Public Schools of Dover and Sherborn
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Mr. Steven B. Bliss, Superintendent
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Mr. John Smith
Headmaster

Ms. Ann Dever-Keegan
Asst. Headmaster

Ms. Therese Green
Special Education
Director

Ms. Ellen Chagnon
Guidance Director

Mr. Heath Rollins
Athletic Director

School Council Minutes from October 6, 2014

Mr. Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Members present were: John Smith (Headmaster), Heather Martiros, Marijane Benner Browne (co-chair) , Ann Dever – Keegan, Robert Williamson, Richard Robinson (RSC rep), Ron Friesen, John Soraghan, Pam Kading Webb (Guidance advisory parent and guest), Olivia Johnson, Mariam Sharh, Stephen Cone, Grace Johnson

Ms. Keegan, assistant headmaster, introduced herself to the group and indicated that she has already been able to become involved in a variety of activities ranging from the Wellness Committee, to MCAS to most student activities. She works hard to spend time in the halls and around the school and stressed that she has an open door policy.

The minutes from the September meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Pam Kading Webb, parent representative for the Challenge Success program, a partnership with Stanford to look at the root causes of stress and help with stress management within the Dover-Sherborn community. She was part of a 10 person team from DS (including Mr. Smith, Ms. Chagnon, 2 students and 2 teachers) to attend a conference in California in September. The group is now developing a list of recommendations and will likely pilot a few initiatives over the coming months, working in conjunction with a locally based coach.

Mr. Smith reported that the Social Norming campaign continues, with tangible efforts like the Stall Street Journal. The overall goal is to share that many kids make good decisions and to help others decide to do the same. Examples of activities which foster the notion of fun in safe ways include last year's prom, having a 5th quarter after football games, Trivia nights, and movie nights through the Film Club.

Mr. Smith reported that a subcommittee is looking at the possibility of merging the high school and middle school schedules. The group has met 4 times and has reviewed districts which have previously done this. It has also considered aspects of the current schedule which people view positively, including break and the current rotation. The group will update the school committee in November, with recommendations to be made by December. Another group is looking at the possibility of changing start times so that the high school would start later.

The Snack Shack, with student managers, is off to a great start. It is extremely popular with students, particularly on Thursdays, when pizza is brought in. All items except Gatorade are \$1, and the Snack Shack is profitable already.

Olivia Johnson provided student feedback on the subject of using the library for DRs now that seniors no longer have priority. Students in other classes like having an equal shot at getting into the library, which most people want to use to get access to the computers. With senior privilege having been extended to the first half of the year, there is easier access during 1st and last periods for non-seniors. Meanwhile, seniors miss the ability to get into the library for resources and would like the number of passes to go off campus to be extended from 15 to 25.

Mr. Smith indicated that the next meeting will include updates on the budget, the proposed cell tower and the status of implementation of the school improvement plan. Stephen Cone volunteered to be the student presenter at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.