

Shawsheen School Improvement Council

Minutes of October 27, 2014

Attendees: Jennifer Srivastava, Beth Puleo, Mary Jo Gustus, Kelly Dougherty, Moira O'Brien, Pat McGovern, Jennessa Durrani

Mrs. O'Brien started the meeting introducing preschool teacher, Beth Puleo, who was elected to the Council at yesterday's staff meeting. Given that Shawsheen School will remain open as a Preschool only facility next year, it was important to have a preschool teacher on the council.

The new Math Focus curriculum was discussed and how it would impact the current improvement plan and specifically Strategic Goal 1. Evaluating the Everyday Math Program and the study and adoption of Massachusetts Common Core Standard of Math no longer apply with the adoption of the Math Focus Program. In addition, the new math curriculum has differentiated math instruction built into the program. Therefore, the Strategic Plan no longer needs to "develop a focus of instruction for Math differentiation". The before school math support program will continue to provide ongoing support for students struggling in math.

The new Parenting Workshops conducted by our School Counselor and School Behaviorist needs to be added to our Strategic Goal 3- Improve student social and emotional well being creating successful independent 21 Century learners. In addition, the adoption of the Social Thinking Edition 2 was discussed how this program models and/or improves social thinking behavior. Like Open Circle, letters are sent home to parents thereby communicating and educating parents on social thinking vocabulary and creating consistent support to the student both at school and home.

It was decided that a Before School Enrichment Program and a Science Reporter would not be possible at this time. The parent representatives want the school to encourage teachers to share more of this curriculum throughout the year through the Parent Portal, Aspen, Parent/Teacher Conferences, etc. as this was noted as a need in the Needs Assessment Survey two years ago. It was also discussed that the school district is looking to update the science curriculum for next year.

It was noted that the Lucy Calkin's Units of Study to Improve Students' Writing be added to the SIP Goal 2-Improve Student achievement in English Language Arts and Literacy as evidenced through individual, district, and state assessments. The program's goal is to increase student proficiency and awareness of the three styles of writing and is being adopted in Kindergarten through Second Grade this year.

The future of Shawsheen was also discussed. Questions were raised about how we should update the strategic plan. Should the plan reflect what we are doing this year or should the plan reflect what Shawsheen will be next year? What will Shawsheen be next year regarding the number of classrooms, specialists, staffing, etc.?

Next meeting has been scheduled for November 18, 2014 at 8:15 a.m.