

John F. Kennedy
January 13, 2010
School Council Minutes
Ann Cameron Library

Attendance: Attendance: Principal – Jennifer Henderson, Barbara Carbone, Meredith Carey,
Candice Tulberg, Marci Rosenthal, Kathy Fox Alfano, Heather Cahill,
Lynn Giacchetto, Marcie Cohen, Kristin Mirilani, Michael Loughran, Beth Magann

AGENDA

1.) Update progress on School Improvement Plan specifically:

Continental Math had second meet; second graders involved.

Jamie Cuddeback will include a section about CML in the March newsletter

Instruction Support Team/Response to Intervention – New forms will be utilized by team members to insure communication between all requested screening and intervention staff

“Book Club” for JFK teachers; invitation sent out to determine interest for Understanding by Design/Differentiated Instruction.

Writing Program – This year we are focusing on open response answers across grades 3-5. Teachers are sampling monthly with review patterns of errors on open response answers with the principal. JFK needs to raise the scores in open response questions; currently JFK is below 2 for averaged across grade levels; should be above 2.8 out of a four point scoring system. Teachers have discussed this issue and have been working together on improving and raising the scores. Grades one and two writing will be reviewed on a monthly sampling basis with goal to strengthen writing skills. Council members suggested something be sent home in hard copy to the fourth grade parents describing the *Writing Process for the Long Comp*. The principal will write a letter and attach a descriptive packet of the process along with a sample of a past long comp. Mrs. Henderson will also be providing an MCAS workshop for parents in February.

Study Island - All teachers have provided students with their passwords to access the program during computer class and from home. Some teachers do assign Study Island homework; others do not. Mrs. Henderson will ask teachers to clarify with their own classroom parents, the exact involvement of the children on Study Island at home.

Data Warehouse – Mrs. Henderson will be reviewing any MCAS subtests below 80% at common planning with the teachers in order to re-address learning standards that need attention.

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Math “Word of the Week” Program - all set: just needs to be posted on the web on February 1, 2010.

Bus Safety – no additional programming to report; Bus B continues with behavioral issues.

Environmental Report from Energy Manager - JFK doing well with electricity usage, kids are recycling all glass and plastic. Boilers aren't working at full efficiency which is causing energy saving issues; being investigated.

2.) Committee updates:

Volunteers - Have seniors and room parents; this subcommittee's work is complete for this year.

Literacy – Subcommittee met and drew up letters to go out to the parents and teachers re: the new *JFK Literacy Magazine*. Accepting all submissions, drawings, cartoons, poems, and essays. Essays are to be limited to three pages. Words of the week can be used. Gallery of Writing: March 24, 2010 4:00 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. for parents. Starting January 15, 2010 Town wide Writing Contest begins (through Canton Public Library). Submissions allowed short stories, poems and essays. Maximum of 1,000 words, contest open to all ages.

Community Giveback Subcommittee- holidays cards were made by students during indoor recess and delivered to Hellenic Nursing Home. Committee looking for ideas for the Spring of 2010; possibly playground clean up.

Public Speaking - Kristin Mirliani will offer a “toastmasters” type after school enrichment program.

Cultural Connections - Date set for June 14, 2010, also Flag Day. Teachers will be updated on regions at March faculty meeting. Tentative schedule regarding countries:

Grade One - Japan and China

Grade Two - Western Europe

Grade Three - Brazil

Grade Four - Africa

Grade Five - Middle East.

Each grade will research music, food, agriculture, clothing, land and traditional customs.

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Ms. Carey received a \$ 600.00 grant from CAPE, and she requested permission to use her judgment on how to spend. Council members agreed that she should make that decision.

After School Enrichment Programs - after school program, kids will sign up, will need volunteers. Tentative programs, ballroom dancing, toast masters, spelling bee, chess club, math club, science program working with Champions. Mrs. Henderson will send out a "letter of interest" to solicit volunteers. After school enrichment to begin in mid February, with letter to be sent home first week in February.

4.) New Business:

Vocabulary - will be having a vocabulary parade based on the book *Miss Alaineus*. Students will pick a word from the dictionary. Students will research word, dress as word and explain to classmates. Word will be grade appropriate. For all grades starting the week of May 4, 2010.

Next meeting Tuesday February 9, 2010 @ 4:00 P.M.