

Oak Hill Middle School

School Council Meeting: January 27, 2010

School Council Members in attendance: Chip DiMarco, Elaine Whalen, Eva Thompson, Risa Shames

Absent: Maureen McKann, Elizabeth Matera, Susan Kane

Parents: Josh Cohen, Lisa Fabrizio, Chris Hill Note-taker: Risa Shames

---

**I. Public Comment**

- Josh Cohen called for more parent participation in School Council meetings. The Council felt that topic-specific meetings might bring more parents in, rather than school council meetings, which tend to be operational and administrative. Eva is also holding periodic evening and morning coffees for parents as a way to reach out to parents.
- Elaine asked about anti-bullying programs at the school. Eva explained that 6<sup>th</sup> grade does a unit on cyber-bullying and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade health curriculum includes a research-based anti-bullying curriculum. In addition, the teams sometimes use community time to discuss bullying. For parents, Project Interface is going to be holding a series of seminars on the subject. Finally, Eva explained that when a bullying incident occurs at school, the guidance staff and the assistant principals step in to support address
- Eva also explained that there was a bullying incident among 7<sup>th</sup> graders on Facebook in December. A youth officer came to address the 7<sup>th</sup> graders right before Christmas vacation. He talked about the legal ramifications of cyber-bullying and also told the students what to do if they are being harassed on line.

**II. December Minutes approved**

**III. Oak Hill School Council Website:** Chip showed us the template that he has developed for the website. It will include Council members, minutes, and agendas from meetings. In addition, there will be a way for parents to send e-mails to a general mailbox that Chip will check. This website will be a link off of the Oak Hill Website.

**IV. Parent and Teacher Survey**

Presentation of Final Results

- Eva would like to create a PowerPoint presentation of the survey results. We need to code the comments so that we can quantify some of the results.
- Eva showed us the coding system that Bruce Henderson came up with. Josh, Chip and Jane volunteered to code the remaining comments before February vacation. Chip will divide up the comments for the volunteers.

Update for Parents

- In the meantime, Eva will send out a newsletter about the general themes from the survey and discuss some of the changes that are going to be implemented based on survey comments.
- General Themes:
  - Need for community building among parents
    - The PTO is working on a series of social and community service events and will be sending something home to parents soon.
  - Consistency among teams
  - Increased parent contact with teachers, opportunity for parents to see classes in action
  - Communication is improving
  - Explain the role of the administrators
  - Need for outdoor space
  - Improve physical plant
- The Council members also wrote up bright ideas that they found in the comments. These will be incorporated in the School Improvement Plan when that process begins.

V. **School Improvement Plan:** Eva will send everyone the format that the city used for the plan. She will show it to the teachers first and then share it with the Council. We will work on it in March and April.

VI. **Change in Meeting Time:** Maureen McKann is taking a class on Wednesday afternoons, so we are proposing to change the meeting to Thursday afternoons, 4:30-5:30. Next meetings:

February 25

March 25

April 29

May 27