

Oak Hill Middle School: School Council Meeting: October 7, 2010

School Council Members in attendance: Elaine Whalen, Eva Thompson, Risa Shames, Steve Siegel, Maureen McKann, Elizabeth Matera

Absent: Susan Kane Parent: Chip DiMarco

I. Administrative issues

- Elaine agreed to be the co-chair of the Council with Eva.
- Meeting times will be Thursday, 4:00-5:00 pm on the following dates: October 28, Dec 2, January 6, Feb 10, March 3, April 7, and May 12.
- PTO update:
 - New communication strategy – short, frequent e-mails, rather than a long, infrequent e-newsletter. PTO is looking for feedback on this new system.
 - PTO met its revenue target with a letter to parents.

II. Participation on the Council

Council members all shared their reasons for participating on the Council.

III. Discussion of Agenda items for future meetings

- Progress on school improvement plan.
- Progress and changes based on 2009 parent/teacher/student survey.
- Other ideas may surface in upcoming sessions.

IV. Open Discussion

- New modulars have been a great success. They have created a world language wing that teachers and students take pride in and keep clean. Discussion to write a thank you to the Aldermen and School Committee. Eva will send Risa some bullets and she will craft a thank you from the committee. Eva will also be responsible for having the students do some kind of thank you as well.
- Enrollment is 615 students. Last year was 580.
- Summer projects to refurbish the lunch room and add a fitness room are greatly appreciated by staff.
- Outside patio – challenge to have students playing/talking outside adjacent to classroom windows. Steve suggested putting some planters right outside the windows to block the view of the students inside the classrooms. The classroom would still have light from the windows, but the students wouldn't be distracted by students outside.
- Eva, Maureen, and Elizabeth gave an update of faculty meetings that are happening once a month. Faculty members are divided into 5 groups that each explore a different topic: behavioral expectations, instruction, school spirit, student connections/community, and responsive tiered interventions Staff are engaged in the discussions, identifying the current reality, researching best practices and then each group will make recommendations to the whole faculty.