

MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life Wednesday, March 7, 2007

Members Present: Dr. Marie Galinski, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Annemarie Cesa;
Ms. Maria Decker; Mr. David Manzi; Mr. Joe Clement;
Ms. Beverly Dolinsky; Ms. Samantha Rosenberg

Members Absent: Ms. Rachel Konaxis; Ms. Amy Pasquarello; Aaron Swiniuch

Also in Attendance: Mr. James Latter; Mr. Paul Manzo; Ms. Barbara Vienneau

Ms. Cesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I Approval of minutes from Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Action Item: A copy of the minutes from the Wednesday, February 7, 2007 meeting was distributed to the committee.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Decker moved and Dr. Dolinsky seconded to approve the minutes from the Wednesday, February 7, 2007 meeting.

So Voted

II Massachusetts Stand For Children

Dr. Galinski introduced Ms. Ellie Beck from the Massachusetts Stand for Children organization which is a new grassroots movement to improve schools in Massachusetts. Ms. Beck gave the committee a brief overview of the program and distributed pamphlets for their information. She stressed the need for increased state aid and noting that the foundation formula is inequitable. She noted that members of this organization drive the agenda and that she is looking to recruit interested members. After a brief discussion, it was suggested that Ms. Beck contact the individual school PTO's to recruit interested parents. More information can be found on www.stand.org/ma.

III Summer Academy 2007

Dr. Galinski distributed a copy of the Summer Academy 2007 Brochure for the committee's review. Brochures have been distributed to the elementary, middle and high school. This will be our 6th year running the Academy.

IV Review of Promotion Policy for Elementary, Middle and High School

A copy of the Elementary, Middle and High School Promotion Policy from the handbooks (which are being edited for the next meeting) was distributed to the committee. It was noted that the work is being done on the wording to the middle school handbooks. In regard to the elementary schools, it was noted that kindergarten retention is the parents' decision and all other grades were the decision of the principal.

V Discussion of Middle School Schedule

A copy of the proposed middle school change with the reasons and impact was distributed to the committee. Two other documents showing the class times and blocks were distributed -one showing the 2006-2007 schedule and one showing the proposed 2007-2008 schedule.

VI Research Projects Being Done by Endicott College Students

A couple of students from Endicott College are compiling data and working on a statistical analysis on the student dropout rate at the high school. They will present their findings to the committee at the May meeting. The meeting will be scheduled prior to the 7:00 meeting (probably at 6:30).

VII Policies

a. Student Eligibility for Participation in Athletics and Co-Curricular Activity

Action Item: A copy of the Student Eligibility for Participation in Athletics and Co-Curricular Activity was distributed to the committee.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Ms. Decker and seconded by Dr. Dolinsky to approve the policy on Student Eligibility for Participation in Athletics and Co- Curricular Activity.

So Voted

b. Elementary and Middle School Redistricting

Action Item: A copy of the Elementary and Middle school Redistricting Policy was distributed to the committee.

After a brief discussion it was moved by Ms. Decker and seconded by Dr. Galinski to approve the policy on Elementary and Middle School Redistricting with the following changes:

Take middle school out of the title and in the first paragraph.

Change number 2 from “A review of identified neighborhoods, as originally identified by the Advisory Committee on School Redistricting

(October, 1966), to determine if these neighborhood designations are still appropriate” to “A review of currently identified neighborhoods to determine if these neighborhood designations are still appropriate.

Remove number 8 which says “All students attending an elementary school will attend the same middle school.”

So Voted

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life is scheduled for Wednesday, April 4, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Annemarie Cesa, M.Ed., Chairperson
Beverly School Committee