

Community Relations Subcommittee Minutes

Monday, November 16th

Present: SC: Judson Peirce, Cindy Starks, Jennifer Susse
APS: Dr. Kathleen Bodie
Other: Linda Shoemaker

Called to order 5:00 PM

No Public participation.

Ms. Starks made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Susse seconded. Starks and Susse approved. Peirce abstained.

Outreach to the Community: January Charrette

Ms. Susse discussed her meeting with Stacie Smith, an Arlington parent who works at Consensus Building Institute, who has graciously offered to help us with the details of our January meeting. We discussed some tentative topics that would be appropriate to bring to a public visioning meeting. They include:

- Importance of neighborhood schools
- Class sizes
- What does a school look like?
- Size of middle schools
- Grade groupings

Ms. Susse offered to contact Patsy Kramer to reserve Town Hall for Thursday, January 7th, with a snow date of Tuesday the 13th and to contact Stacie Smith to see if she is available to come to our next subcommittee meeting.

Survey Responses: Second Read

Mr. Peirce suggested some improvements to the summary, including taking out the “only’s” for areas in which parents have expressed concern. Ms. Starks noted that the complete survey needs to be available to the School Committee before the summary is brought to them. We discussed how to redact the comments, which we agreed should not be public as they sometimes mention specific personnel. We agreed to bring the summary for a third read at our next meeting and bring it before the full school committee in December.

Community Meetings: Discussion and Planning

Ms. Starks presented a proposal for future items that we might want to bring to the community for public discussion. For this academic year we agreed to have a meeting in March or April on *Common Core, Curriculum and Assessments*. Ms. Susse agreed to check with Patsy Kramer about availability on either March 31st or April 8th. We tentatively agreed to hold a meeting on *Budget and Funding* next fall

At the end of the meeting we discussed our upcoming decision on whether to adopt PARCC or MCAS for this Spring. Mr. Peirce expressed concerns that our technology is not “up to par” Ms. Susse worried about adopting a test for one year that will look different from MCAS 2.0. Ms. Starks argued that MCAS is still relevant and does currently reflect the Common Core.

Meeting ended at 6:15 PM