

## MEDWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Council Minutes: 10/19/10

The first meeting of the Middle School Council took place at 3:00p.m. on Tuesday October 19, 2010 in the Middle School Conference Room. In attendance were: Armand Pires, Cari Perchase, Beth Donovan, Andrea Moores, Donna Schleicher, Mandy DeVolder, Gretchen Heely, Karen Grossman, Mike Fanelli, Megan McCuiston, Megan Bond, Mike Kelly, Shelley Weiler, Emily Dodson, and Jeannette Waugh. Nobody was absent. The following items were discussed at the meeting.

- Review of work completed by the council in the past:
  - Wellness Day
  - Career Day
  - Building beautification (painting, planting)
  - Barnes and Noble book fair/fundraiser
  - Scholastic Awards
  - School topics
  - Review of School Improvement Plan
  
- Armand introduced Shelley Weiler from the School Committee.
  
- Our first task at hand- how to attack the review of goals in the old School Improvement Plan, and our need of an active, current improvement plan. Goals for the current year were discussed first:
  
- **Goal #1:** Improve upon scheduling problems.
  - We are doing things that are less productive and losing instructional time (i.e.- Most students are in school by 7:25. There is no need to wait until 7:50 to start instruction after homeroom. We are currently cutting down on that and starting around 7:42.).
  - Other concerns: the number of teachers students go to and transitions in the day (i.e.- 5<sup>th</sup> graders see many teachers; 7-8<sup>th</sup> graders: separate math teacher, math extension teacher, math support teacher...)
  - Scheduling band/chorus
  - 46-minute classes offer very short opportunities for greater depth in learning.
  - Armand commented that despite the scheduling problems, he is seeing good instruction and students learning.
  
- **Goal #2:** Curricular Program

- Not a lot of curriculum leadership
  - Looking at what kids are learning
  - Need to support faculty (What's being implemented and how it meets the Frameworks)
  - What teacher teaches needs to be better articulated
- **Goal #3: Instructional Program**
    - Expect high-quality instructional practices
    - How do we support *all* learners? How to set up a structure
    - Pulling special education students for replacement: Are we effectively supporting them?
    - Peer tutoring during homeroom study periods was suggested (i.e.- peer math tutor)
- **Goal #4: Leveling Students**
    - This concern came up in discussion today.
    - “Standard” vs. “Accelerated” levels in the upper grades- concern about stigma associated with a label. Is this going to last?
    - Many voiced a need to change current format
    - Study the effects of labeling 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade math.
    - Armand will pull research on the study of grouping.
- **To Do:**
    - Assess where we are in the School Improvement Plan
    - Revision- less broad, more concrete objectives
    - Go through the 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan (it is being sent via email), and fill in any information regarding how goals were met last year, providing as much information as possible.
- **Medway Middle School Building Repair Project:**
    - Shelley Weiler spoke about the importance of getting this passed and informing people to vote for it in a short amount of time. We need to support this as a committee.
    - MA School Building Authority has awarded Medway with a share in the repair project.
    - The school requires \$22 million in repairs, but the Building Authority is covering \$11 million of it if everything passes through the town. People in Medway will not be taxed on the whole cost, just the share we have to pay.

- 10/27/10 at 6 p.m. there will be a presentation of the project, and tours of the school. Community members are urged to attend the meeting and support this project.
- Systems in the school will be updated (new windows, better handicap accessibility, elevators, front entrance connecting the two buildings, etc.)
- Anticipated project timetable- September 2011- September 2013
- November 15<sup>th</sup> is the town meeting – spread the word! Go to [townofmedway.org](http://townofmedway.org) for more information. FAQ will be posted soon too.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10. The next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeannette Waugh