

Newton South High School  
School Council Minutes  
September 21, 2010

Present: Ryan Augusta, Jeanne O'Reilly, Eleanor Woods, Eleanor Richard, Bob Parlin, Tom Lee, Lisa Rucinski, Mona Hochberg, Janet Wertheimer, Lucia Dolan, Marcia Okun, Charlie Myette, Chip DiMarco, Deena David, Joel Stembridge, Barry Wanger, Marci Sapers. Guests: Liz Richardson, Alderman Charlie Shapiro

- I- Introductions
- II- Principal's Welcome
  - a. Orange Lion - no major changes for several years
  - b. School Improvement Plan - meetings in the summer for best practices.  
Part a. mostly completed last school year and Part b. 2009-2010, into this school year. Will be monitoring goals/progress this year. (See attachment.)
  - c. Security Cameras - do not have yet. School committee approved. Before they will be turned on, there will be assemblies and notifications. No time line yet; money has been appropriated.
  - d. Budget - no changes positive or negative since the spring. Zero reductions in teaching positions. Concern about teacher negotiations still ongoing.
  - e. Enrollment – NSHS - 1699 projected, 1710 actual
  - f. Lunches - School committee outsourced to outside company. Company must negotiate agreement between both parties on how to implement system. Some students not pleased with current, limited options. Since contract not signed with outside vendor, cafeteria being operated by half as many workers as last year.
- III- Reflections from last year
  - a. transition year
  - b. change in leadership
  - c. expanded membership (students)
  - d. Formatting in agenda setting

- e. Specific focus on School Improvement Plan
  - f. Website
  - g. By-laws
- IV- Public Comments
- a. none
- V- Top Issues for 2010-2011
- a. South/North Equity- both schools hold relatively equal amount of students and allow for equal access and opportunities. List of needed improvements for South, after 2007 renovations.
  - b. Traffic subcommittee met with Police Captain earlier in the month. Road behind school dangerous and need to discourage parents from using it as an access road during morning drop-off. We also need to look at better signage, new painted lines, and improved traffic flow in large student lot. Subcommittee will ask Alderman Charlie Shapiro to identify possible solutions.
  - c. Counseling - College Process - We will seek a meeting with new head guidance counselor to discuss how we support students and parents in the college admissions process.
  - d. SIP
  - e. Student Life/ Stress
- VI- Governance
- a. agendas on website in advance
  - b. public welcome to attend meetings
  - c. snack sign ups and minutes
  - d. agenda and minutes sent via email to members
- VII- New Business
- a. Parent Portal?
  - b. Rewrite SIP?
  - c. Include dates of meetings in emails with agenda.

Submitted by: Ryan Augusta