

## School Council Minutes

Nov. 17, 2009

Council Attendees: Marci Sapers, Lisa Rucinski, Jane Starkman, Deena David, Charles Myette, Bob Parlin, Mona Hochberg, Mary Scott, David Deutsch, Debbie Linder, Marcia Okun, Chip DiMarco, Tom Lee, Liz Richardson, Ryan Augusta, Barry Wanger

- Introductions of new members
- Minutes handed out along with a powerpoint
  - Review of the minutes
  - All approved
- Discussion regarding the taking, distribution and approval process of minutes.
  - Agreed that minutes will be taken on a rotating basis by council members. Draft of minutes will be sent to co-chairs for review and editing. They will send to Joel for final review. Once he approves it will be sent out via email to all Council members for comment and approval. Any changes should be sent to co-chairs who will make edits, as needed.
- Discussion regarding opportunities and procedures for parents to speak to Council
  - Council agreed that there will be a set period toward the beginning of each Council meeting for parents to address the Council. While it would be preferable for parents who want to speak to contact the co-chairs in advance, it is not required. The only guideline is that whatever issue a parent or guardian wants to speak about it must be an issue that involves more than their own child.
- Discussion regarding selecting students to serve on the Council.
  - Council agreed that until by-laws are enacted, teachers will recommend students to housemasters. Housemasters will select a total of three students to serve on Council, effective as soon as possible.
- Discussion regarding communications.
  - Council agreed on the importance of open and transparent communications regarding the work of the Council.
  - Council agreed to establish a communications subcommittee. Members are Chip DiMarco, Barry Wanger, Ryan Augusta.
- \* Among the issues the committee will address based on Council discussion: Setting up a Council page on the high school's website. The site will include Council minutes, agenda, names of Council members, overview of the role of the Council, link to the School Improvement Plan.
- \* Decision matrix
  - Joel presented a decision matrix (attached) that illustrates the Council's role in the recommending decisions to the Principal. Council members agreed with the process.
- Presentation of WISE proposal
  - Marla Weiner provided an overview of the new WISE proposal that will provide most seniors with the opportunity to participate in a senior project/internship, instead of classes, during the fourth quarter of senior year for credit.

- Marla pointed out that while C.O.P. has approved the recommendations, there were issues worked out, especially with English, but the program been well vetted and supported by the Administration.
- Among the key points Marla made regarding the proposal:
  - Faculty serves as mentors
  - Required for 4 hours of work a week outside of school
  - Many kids get left out of WISE opportunities because of sports, jobs, and other conflicts within the day or after school
  - Natick, Wellesley (300 students involved) and Weston all offer similar intern programs
  - Participating students can drop all of your regular classes. Exceptions: AP and MCAS classes
- Five seniors will be piloting the new program in the fourth quarter in 2010 students piloting this.
- \* Colleges look favorably upon the internship program.
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- Timeline: Register as juniors
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- Discussion regarding By Laws
  - Council agreed to set-up a By-Law Subcommittee composed of Marci Sapers, Jane Starkman, Marcia Okun, and Joel Stenbridge.
  - The Subcommittee is charged with reviewing by-laws of other school councils and developing by-laws for Newton South that will address such issues as term limits, membership, and operational procedures and guidelines.
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- Discussion of School Improvement Plan Subcommittee
  - Joel provided Council members with interim reports regarding the work of each SIP
  - Joel said he would like to add student learning goals to the current SIP

Submitted by Debbie Linder