

PAWCATUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL

SBIT

January 9, 2006

Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: M. Muller, J. Leigh, L. Whelan, C. Albert, D. Willner, D. Beverly, J. Giulini, S. Hutchins, and L. George

Minutes of the December meeting were read and accepted.

**Principal's Report**

Jane Giulini presented the Principal's Report. Reflecting on the month of December, she noted continued student learning throughout the month. The students illustrated that they will respond to high expectations if that is expected, even before holidays.

Mrs. Giulini discussed the increased attendance at both winter concerts in December. She noted that, in the future, we may need to use the high school facility for concerts if overcrowding becomes a safety issue.

Transition within the Choral Music program is positive. Ms. Hodosh has high expectations and has established a positive rapport with students. The concert was outstanding in terms of musical performance and stage presence.

Mrs. Giulini shared that both basketball teams are working hard this season. She noted that basketball is the best "hook" for keeping athletes focused on their school work. Some players were placed on academic probation earlier in the season, and are now academically eligible to play.

Mrs. Giulini discussed a plan to increase newspaper coverage of school events. Margo Blanchette will serve as our liaison with local newspapers.

Mrs. Whelan discussed the grade 6 trip to Alton Jones in December. Additionally, she shared information about the SHS Class of 1955's gift of a weather station to the school.

Mrs. Albert shared that she had attended a world class schools conference in Boston in December. She and Mr. McKee presented at a conference in Philadelphia with two members of the Center for School Change. Their topic was how non-profit organizations and school systems can work together.

**Old Business**

Lori George noted that 58 parents responded to the Parent Math Survey.

Claudia Albert shared that on Parents Night for students in grades 1-5 will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Stonington High School. New math team leaders from each grade level will

present by grade level and will discuss the key topic, "How do I help my child with homework?" In grades 3-5, each unit has been written to include materials for parents.

Lori George discussed results of our Parent Math Survey. She noted differences in parent concerns from grade 6-8.

Several ideas for future Parent Nights were suggested. They include:

- CMT
- The 3 R's; How are we learning today?

Jim Leigh and Linda Whelan discussed the Sitton Spelling program. Claudia Albert suggested creating a Q & A column in Panther Tracks to share information with families. Mr. Leigh will write an overview of Sitton Spelling for Panther Tracks.

Claudia Albert suggested that we include a curriculum section in the Student Agenda for 2006-07. This would include an overview of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies for each grade level.

It was suggested that Bevin Winner, our Library-Media Specialist, include news of Parent Nights on the web page.

Other suggestions around increasing parent involvement included:

- Begin next year by sharing accomplishments from 2005-06
- Send grade 8 transition information home to grade 8 parents in Panther Tracks and letters.
- Plan a Parent Night to discuss pre-adolescent social pressures.

It was agreed that we will advertise all evening parent meetings. A suggestion was also made to have stations at Back-to-School Night to focus on topics. Each would focus on a topic, such as the Sitton Spelling Program.

The next meeting is slated for February 6 at 7:00 PM at PMS.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.