

Pawcatuck Middle School
SBIT November 7, 2005
Minutes of Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Lori George at 7:05 PM. In attendance were M. Muller, S. Hutchins, D. Beverly, M. Rogerson, L. Whelan, J. Leigh, L. George, J. Giuliani, and J. Ingham.

Minutes of the October meeting were read and accepted.

Principal's Report: Jane Giuliani presented the Principal's Report. She discussed the recent Washington, D.C. field trip in which students enjoyed a myriad of rich learning opportunities, ranging from listening to a debate at the Capitol to the newly constructed Korean War monument. She noted that the students were well prepared academically for the trip and focused as they visited the several historical sites.

Jane Giuliani and Jim Leigh discussed the Lego League robotics competition in which several PMS students are participating. The project entails building and programming a robot to assist in solving realistic oceanographic pollution problems. Jim Leigh noted the project represents authentic and high interest learning for the participants. The team hopes to compete at the State level in December.

Jane Giuliani noted that many more students are participating in after-school activities this year. Eighty-seven students are participating in the Student Forum.

Jane Giuliani discussed the Flex Block and how teachers are targeting instruction at every grade level. Linda Whelan and Jim Leigh shared how Flex Block activities are increasing learning for all students.

Old Business

Janis Ingham discussed the "Baby, Think It Over" program and demonstrated the behaviors of Belle, one of the lifelike dolls cared for by 8th graders in Health classes.

Lori George led a discussion of Parents as Partners Night. She noted the enthusiastic responses of parents to the evening.

SBIT members agreed that the math program was the primary concern of parents. They agreed that a survey for parents will be crafted to determine how teachers can increase parent comfort with math. Jane Giuliani will work with math teachers to create the survey. She will present a draft of the survey at the next meeting.

Other areas of parent interest were discussed:

- Teaching basics (punctuation and spelling). Linda Whelan led a discussion of the Sitton Spelling Program with its word study component.

- The expansion of web sites to include homework assignments. It was suggested that information for parents be provided in Panther Tracks. Additionally, permission slips might be included on the web sties.

Lori George noted that the December meeting will be used to categorize parent requests (from Parents as Partners meeting). Jane Giulini will share the draft of the math survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM. The next meeting is slated for Monday, December 5, at 7:00 PM.