

WATERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Meeting Minutes

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Group/Team: | Gilmartin School SGC | | |
| Location: | Gilmartin School Conference Room | Norms Reviewed: | yes no |
| Date of Meeting: | Tuesday, September 19, 2017 | Start Time: | 5:00 p.m. |
| Minutes Prepared By: | Katelyn Thibeault | Finish Time: | 6:00 p.m. |

| Attendance at Meeting (list all team members present or not and guests) | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------|
| | Name | Position | Signature |
| 1 | Jennifer Dwyer | Principal | |
| 2 | Lisa Klem | President/ Special Ed Teacher | |
| 3 | Carol Marino | Vice-President/ School Psychologist | |
| 4 | Katelyn Thibeault | Secretary/ Parent | |
| 5 | Amy Mancini | Parent Liaison | absent |
| 6 | Danielle Albert | Parent | absent |
| 7 | Melissa Grossman | Parent | absent |
| 8 | Shakirah Howard | Parent | |
| 9 | Cindy Leonard | Parent | |
| 10 | Cathy Dwyer | Music Teacher | |
| 11 | Brenda Falcone | Special Ed Teacher | |
| 12 | Pia Petruzzi | 2nd Grade Teacher | |
| 13 | Tanya Bulls | Interim Vice Principal | |
| 14 | Margaret O'Brien | Community Member/ Board of Health Commissioner | |
| 15 | Louisa Printz | Community Member/ Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury | absent |
| 16 | Scott St. Germain | Parent volunteer | |
| 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | |
| 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | |

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Purpose of Meeting – Instructional Focus:

Updates and Future plans

Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM 8/29/17 MEETING:

- Minutes reviewed and accepted

RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY MEMBER POSITION:

- Louisa Printz, Community Educator from Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury is interested in being our second community member.
- SGC members voted and accepted her nomination.

DISCUSSION ON GILMARTIN SGC READING INITIATIVE:

-We had two guests, Kelly Croce and Laura Caruso, that joined our meeting to discuss our reading initiative.

-In the past the school has done a “Read Across America” to make reading fun. Each grade got a car that moved across America. It was a great project and motivator that involved and engaged kids and families.

-Team brainstorming ideas of possible season/quarterly reading incentive.

-Visuals are good for children and families to see

-The class that reads the most can earn a prize Amy Petruzzi suggested class trips to museums in WTBY, the palace, or Y. We can reach out and involve local businesses for engagement.

-Kelly Croce and Laura Caruso suggested to keep reading fun. Some children may not have access to books or computers at home. We don't want reading to feel like “work” rather than fun.

-We went back to a previous discussion about new vocab words like Shakira Howard suggested. Have children come up with new vocab words and maybe hang on doors of classrooms (sentence strips) Like Where's Waldo but Where's the new vocabulary word?

-Kelly Croce suggested we have to change it up so it doesn't get boring or stagnant. Also to build on vocabulary/curriculum and motivate and ask things like- How many times was the word, shred, mentioned?

-There was a discussion about the new vocab by Mrs. Dwyer and Shakira Howard. Choose the new vocabulary word and have the children write down what they think the word means and then look up the definition. A child can also be chosen to say what the vocab word is on the loud speaker along with the definition. Amy Petruzzi added that we can incorporate arts by having the older students illustrate the vocabulary words or create cartoon words.

-Brief discussion of shut down the last 20mins of the day for teachers to read aloud to children, maybe during breakfast? Mrs Dwyer shared that we should really aim to involve parents and children rather than add more work onto the classroom teacher. There was a suggestion to strengthen parents and student connection and invite parents to come in the class and read once a month. Have a sign in sheet....

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-The group agreed on quarterly and change the incentive and focus to keep children interested and motivated. The first quarter will be pages read. It will be put in the newsletter and on DOJO. Make sure pre-k gets newsletter because they do not use dojo.

-Our visual for the first quarter will be a tree. Teachers can be creative with the leaves. A template with 4 leaves (10pgs, 20pgs, 30pgs,40pgs) will be created and sent home. Child will decorate leaf with family once they complete the goal of reading the pages. The leaf will be handed in and hung up on the tree. Children will be split up by grades (prek-2, 3-6, 7&8). The incentive will be to decorate pumpkins or make a scarecrow (scarecrow is favored). Possibly have local businesses donate special prize along with the activity like McDonalds Halloween coupon or Roadhouse free kid meal coupons etc...

Miss Bulls brought up how will we really know the children are actually read their pages. There's no solution but we discussed maybe asking parents to take photos or videos of their child reading and send it to their teacher on Dojo to be shared with the class. This will help motivate child to read as well.

-All members will keep in touch through email about what local business they contacted for donations. A letter asking for donations can be obtained from Amy Mancini. Some local businesses named to contact were McDonald's, Friendly's, Roadhouse, & Pepe Pizza.

CLOSURE/PLAN FOR NEXT MEETING ON 10/10/17 5:00-6:00:

- Gator game and name that gator bring up at PTA meeting.
- Cyril the sorcerer
- Get Gilmartin Community Club to become involved again.
- Margaret O'Brien shared from the board of health meeting how much smile builders has grown.
- Agenda for next meeting to include new community member, focus on initiative and members can email topics for agenda to Lisa Klem.