

**Millennium Middle School
SIP Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2006**

Present:

Staff Members: R. J. Webber, Stephanie Berry, Michele Darket, Jennifer DiMarco, Sharon Pollock,
Courtney Windsor
Parents: Janet Bliden, Laura Hogan
Absent: Lisa DelVecchio, Maureen Scheffler (parent)

The meeting began at 8:05 a.m.

General Announcements

- Mr. Webber stated that pending State legislative action, high school graduation requirements would be changed for students beginning with the graduating class of 2010, which affects the students who are currently in 8th grade and below. A meeting will be held on February 13 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to discuss the new requirements.
- Newspaper articles were distributed to the committee regarding:
 - Creativity and its role in the American education system.
 - How poverty affects learning which ties into the Ruby Payne work being reviewed at our school and will be the focus of our staff meeting on January 24.
 - Mediation, Communication Ease Conflict at Millennium as printed in The Herald in December, 2005
- Mrs. Bliden invited all staff members to attend the Destination Imagination competition on March 4 at Waterford Kettering H.S. She also shared some workbooks regarding creative problem solving that would be useful for students, as well as adults.
- Carol Urb, from Active Faith, and Nancy Minkler, from Youth Assistance will visit our school on February 28. They will be joined by our counselors, Bethany Wallace and Mark Zink, to discuss services available to students and their families. Additionally, Mandy Becker and Kevin Ferguson, from our Alternative Education SEALS program will be presenting teaching techniques used in their program at a staff meeting on March 21.
- The Chamber Choir received positive feedback on their behavior before performing at the Fox Theatre on December 21 for the Radio City Music Show. Mr. Shekell, our afternoon building engineer, explained to the Fox staff that their conduct was due in part to the implementation of the Habits of Mind at MMS.
- A few teacher matters were brought before the committee.
 - The lack of emergency call buttons in the art and technology wing concerns teachers.
 - When an assembly is taking place during school, some teachers would like a mini-schedule planned so that all classes would meet for the same amount of time on that day.
- Professional Learning Communities are being discussed and reviewed at MMS. A group of teachers met in early January to discuss the move of MMS toward a PLC. In an effort to implement these communities, next year's schedule will try to plan for teachers who teach the same subject for each grade level to have a common planning period.
- Mr. Webber informed the committee of a "Guys Read" student group he is chairing at school. Stephanie Berry and Courtney Windsor volunteered to form a "Girls Read" program, too.

Upcoming Events

- Mid-Term Assessments are scheduled for the week of January 23. The exam schedule is the same as last year.
- The Language Arts teachers will be giving best practice presentations on February 7th and February 14. The presentations are based upon the 6 + 1 Writing Process.

School Improvement/NCA

- Mary McGrath and Terry Furlong recently attended an NCA Meeting which involved an external peer review. The review committee felt our school was right on track and doing an excellent job in the NCA process.

Budgetary Discussion

- The budget was reviewed with the committee. The guest teacher salary and teacher supply were areas of concern.

Code of Conduct

- The effectiveness of the Options Room process was discussed.

Review of Crisis Plans

- The Utility Emergency crisis plan was reviewed.

Old/New Business

- A lengthy discussion was held on taking the Habits of Mind implementation program to the next level. An article titled, Are Your Lessons Habit Forming, was reviewed. The committee felt that one way implementation could be increased is by having students analyze current events, books, stories, world affairs and list ways in which the Habits of Mind were or were not brought into play. Mr. Webber asked the committee to find a couple of other ways to put HOM into practice and they would then be presented to the staff at an April staff meeting. The parents on the SIP Committee, Janet Bliden and Laura Hogan, shared how the Habits of Mind were being applied at Sayre Elementary School. Mrs. Bliden also shared some creative strategies that are used in Destination Imagination to problem solve ideas. She shared a few workbooks that had some ten-minute instant challenges that could also be used to problem solve situations encountered by both students and adults.

Strategic Plan 2003-2008

- The Focus Area, Healthy Learning Community, was discussed in the review of the December Herald article.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15. Refreshments will be provided by RJ Webber.
The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Submitted by,
Michele Darket