

**Millennium Middle School
SIP Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2006**

Present:

Staff Members: R. J. Webber, Lisa, DelVecchio, Stephanie Berry, Michele Darket, Jennifer DiMarco, Sharon Pollock, Courtney Windsor

Parents: Janet Bliden, Laura Hogan, Maureen Scheffler

The meeting began at 8:05 a.m.

General Announcements

- Concern was expressed regarding student drop-off in front of the 7th/8th grade building at the beginning of the school day. Mr. Webber shared an editorial submitted by a MMS parent in the February 9 edition of The Herald titled, "A Little Courtesy Please" which addressed this situation. There was also concern with busses using the front of the building to exit onto Nine Mile Road and then turn right on Pontiac Trail. The front exit provides lanes for cars to turn either right or left, but parents have reported that busses have sometimes gone between these two lanes to make a left turn out of the front loop.
- Teachers questioned why the school was being used for high school activities, as well as other outside groups. They felt high school activities should take place at the high school and other schools could host some other events. The condition in which some of the classrooms, gym, and other areas of the building were left after an event. Mr. Webber reported that there is a room violations procedure that can be completed to report these incidents.

Upcoming Events

- A Girls Read and a Guys Read meeting is planned for March 2. At that time, a book will be chosen for each group to read. Staff members are also encouraged to get involved in this club.
- As Part II of the At Risk Series, Nancy Minckler from Youth Assistance and Carol Erb from Active Faith will attend our next staff meeting on February 28 to make the staff aware of resources available to students and families. Part III of the At Risk Series will take place in March and Mandy Becker and Kevin Ferguson from our Alternative Education program will explain teaching strategies they use in their classroom.
- The curriculum day on March 1 will be to discuss Professional Learning Communities (PLC). John Brickey, a 6th grade Social Studies teacher, explained to the committee the goal of PLC is for teachers who teach the same grade level subject area to work together and freely share their ideas, perspectives, and strategies to improve student achievement.

School Improvement/NCA

- Mr. Webber will be submitting a report to Dr. Schmeichel at the beginning of March.

Budgetary Discussion

- The budget was reviewed with the committee.

Code of Conduct

- Mrs. DelVecchio distributed Options Room Process statistics from the first semester. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Review of Crisis Plans

- The Serious Injury or Illness crisis plan was reviewed.

New Business

- 6+1 Writing Traits Best Practice was presented at a staff meeting on February 14. The Language Arts teachers set up 6 stations (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions) to demonstrate each trait.

New Business (continued)

- Mr. Zink, counselor, distributed information about our attendance tracking policy and truancy, which included samples of letters which are sent home after 10-day and 15-day absences. If a child has more than 15 absences they also receive a letter and are referred to Youth Assistance. After 20 absences, parents are notified by the assistant principal warning them of Oakland County School Truancy or Educational Neglect. Beyond 25 absences, the assistant principal will file a Truancy or Educational Neglect referral. Through February 14, our truancy data is as follows:

5-Day Telephone Calls:	220
10-Day Letters Sent:	54
15-Day Letters Sent	16
Youth Assistance Referrals:	16
Truancy Referrals to Oakland County	2 complete, 1 pending

Note: Two (2) students have 25+ absences will not be referred for truancy due to documented Medical conditions

Oakland Schools representatives are impressed with our system and are sharing it with other schools.

- Ms. DeVecchio, assistant principal, handed out the proposed handbook/code-of conduct changes. She reviewed each proposal with the committee.
- Cindi Russette, math facilitator, presented a new proposed math program, Connected Math Project that will be presented to the Board of Education on March 6 and for approval on March 20. Upon Board approval, it will be implemented next year. She piloted a portion of this program in her class this year. The program provides real-world applications. The curriculum is the same but uses a different method of instruction. It also has more applications for students to use graphing calculators, as well as giving them a good foundation in algebraic concepts. The new program will be implemented in grades 5-7 pending Board approval.
- Information regarding the proposed new high school requirements was distributed and discussed
- The following newspapers articles were handed out:
 - Special Report – High School Requirements: Tougher standards for grads supported (The Detroit Free Press)
 - Kids Get Second Chance (regarding our Alternative Education program), The Detroit News
 - Learning is a social activity, make sure kids take active role by Jennifer Murphy, principal at Sayre Elementary School (The Herald)
 - Dearborn threat shows blog danger (The Detroit Free Press)

Strategic Plan 2003-2008

- The Focus Area, Healthy Learning Community was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15. Refreshments will be provided by Maureen Scheffler.
The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Submitted by,
Michele Darket