

R. J. Grey Junior High School Council
December Meeting Minutes Summary

The RJG School Council met on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. Those present were Craig Hardimon, Kathleen McDonagh, Karyn Finamore, Jim O'Neil, Francesca Ricciardi, Celeste Margolius, Mae Shoemaker, and Pat Higgins.

Principal Craig Hardimon introduced Kathleen McDonough, the community representative to the School Council. Francesca Ricciardi volunteered to assume this position to serve as co-chair of the Council. The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Principal's report: Craig Hardimon reviewed happenings at RJ Grey. Craig recently met with Student Council representatives who are on the Principal's Advisory Board. These students bring ideas from the Council and discuss the possibility of implementing some of them. The November 18 eighth grade dance was a success with 180 students attending. The next seventh grade social is scheduled for January. New team banners are hanging in the rotunda. At the annual Thanksgiving Day assembly the two winners of the speech writing contest presented.

Conferences: This year RJG has a new schedule for conferences this year. Conference requests were made after parents were able to see first term report cards. Parents/guardians could sign up for conferences on December 8, December 15, or January 5. All parents who requested a time were able to have one scheduled.

The School Committee is concerned that not all parents/guardians are able to attend conferences since they are currently scheduled only during the day. The new teacher contract contains a provision that teachers can be required to hold evening conferences, but they must be compensated for this time. In order to collect data to ascertain the need for night conferences, parents/guardians are being surveyed. Once all of the results are in and presented, the School Council can make a recommendation to the School Committee. Given some confusion about team meetings, a brochure will be written about Conferences and Team Meetings to explain to parents/guardians the purpose and usefulness of each.

CORI Forms: Under the new state guidelines, all parents/guardians must be re-CORId by June. Only one form needs to be completed for each individual for all AB schools however, forms must be submitted in person to the school with a photo ID. The intent of this new law is for the protection of the students, but it is more burdensome for the schools and volunteers.