

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

The RJG School Council met on January 10, 2006. Those in attendance were Craig Hardimon, Kathleen McDonagh, Karyn Finamore, Jim O'Neil, Francesca Ricciardi, Celeste Margolius, Mae Shoemaker, Jeanne Goulet and Pat Higgins. The minutes from the December 13th meeting were accepted.

Principal's Report: There was a 7th grade dance on January 9th. Over 300 students attended it. RJ Grey winter sports teams are enjoying a lot of success. The homeroom contest of 'Box Tops for Education' collection yielded \$366. Over 200 new toys were collected during the Toys for Tots campaign prior to the holiday break. The P.E. teachers are collecting empty ink cartridges, which, in turn, are sold to be refilled. The hope is to be able to purchase some new gym equipment with the proceeds.

Registration for Project Wellness has begun. The forms are due January 13th. This event is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to strengthen their communication skills with each other regarding adolescent issues.

Conferences are now complete and all 588 families that requested a conference were accommodated. Teaching staff members of the Council felt that conferences went smoothly. School committee has asked for an investigation as to the interest in night conferences. A survey is being conducted. The final results from all returned survey forms will be compiled and reviewed at the February School Council meeting. The final results will be shared with the school committee.

Communications at RJG: The Council reviewed a draft communication brochure that maps out the communication tools available to all families. The document explains the fundamentals of teaming, team meetings and teacher conferences. Home to school communication venues are listed as well as team email addresses. This would be a good document to distribute on 6th grade information night as well as back to school night.

Budget: The RJG budget will be presented to the school committee on Saturday, January 21st. Principal Hardimon is preparing to ask for a status quo with no additional staffing or funding. He has asked his colleagues to prepare information regarding compromises made as a result of budget cuts. Some examples will be given to the school committee. Craig feels that the class sizes and needs of the H.S. are much greater at this time and the H.S. should get any additional funding that might become available.