

Summary of School Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2005

Principal Hardimon opened the first meeting of the year by reviewing the purpose, responsibilities and makeup of the Council. The meeting schedule was also established.

Creating and working on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) is the Council's primary purpose. The SIP goals, for the 2005-2006 school year, were reviewed. The goals and related work thus far are:

Goal 1 – To support efforts to promote Academic and Social Integrity. Two committees have been formed to address this goal, an academic integrity committee and a Social Integrity (bullying and teasing) committee.

Goal 2 – To Continue to Investigate the Viability of an Advisory Program. The purpose of an advisory program is for students to develop a significant relationship with at least one adult in the building.

Goal 3 – To Update Safety Procedures and Building Security. Building security has already improved, with the locking of all but the front door and distribution of intellikeys to staff members to allow appropriate access to the building. The Emergency Management Plan is currently being rewritten and revised.

Goal 4 – Curriculum and Instruction – Building Department Leaders (BDLs) and Susan Horne meet on a regular basis to go over curriculum, what is working, what is not, and what action to take (if any). They have gone over the MCAS scores and we are doing great. Math scores were looked at in particular and this curriculum and instruction group are going to look at students who override and how they scored on MCAS.

Goal 5 - Effect of Increasing Team Size on Learning – Class sizes were reviewed and discussed. This goal is driven by fiscal constraints.

Goal 6 – Enhance Parent Partnership. - Several avenues of communication are being used and/or have been planned.

Craig Hardimon gave his Principals Report. This monthly report gives the Council information about happenings at RJG. Craig reported on the opening of school, new staff, fire drill practice, club participation, and Pajama drive. He also discussed a concern that came up two year ago regarding the 7th grade social studies curriculum. In response to those concerns all families now receive a letter about the curriculum and specifically a movie called “That’s a Family” that is viewed during that unit. Informing families ahead has been very helpful. A report on the Jr. High will be made to the School Committee at the end of the month – This report will include a discussion of parent conferences, school choice, and other budgetary issues.