

Sagaponack Common School
Shared Decision Making Committee Minutes
June 2, 2011

In attendance:

Diana McGinniss
Mrs. Arrigotti
Terry Scammell
Lee Ellwood
Patrick Guarino
Ellen Wilford
Barbara Mueller
Stacie Selfe
Joe Louchheim
Marion Wilson
Matthew Wilson
Brian Villante
Hilary Louchheim
Christoph Mueller
Barbara Albright
Christina Martin
Kelly Cunningham
Lauri Lenahan

1. Meeting began at 7:05 p.m.
2. To start off, Patrick Guarino asked if there could be another meeting in the first week of July to get Shared Decision Making Committee names in order and begin going over the management plan that he has already established by himself. A few parents agreed with another meeting on July 7th, where some were opposed. It was pointed out that the SDMP is not up for renewal until February 2012.
3. Mrs. Arrigotti thanked the parents that came and helped research to incorporate a new math program for the 2011-2012 school year. The committee evaluated many programs and used other districts to research and come up with a math learning program suitable for the third and fourth grade. We have chosen to evaluate the Go Math Series, and it is an approved program by the state. This program offers core standards which helps with the moving up process to higher levels. It also has a text book, which gives instructions and examples of the material being taught for that lesson. Most other districts in our areas seem to be using this program and find it most useful.

4. Patrick Guarino went over his draft of the Shared Decision Management Plan. He said that we need to put a committee in place and pick a few goals to start tackling. Mr. Elwood then spoke about the difference of the plan already in place and the new draft (written by Mr. Guarino). He advised all parents to read both plans. (Each family was given a copy of both plans at the meeting and then again during the week of June 6, 2011) Mr. Elwood also stated that a new plan must be approved by the Board as well as the State. Christoph Mueller thinks that coming up with a new Management Plan is a great way for all parents to come together and work for the same principle. Barbara Mueller suggested that if we all agreed to be a part of the committee, then we just need to set on a date for meeting in September. Matthew Wilson then asked about the Committee bylaws. Brain Villante said that it's perfect that all parents, teachers, and community members all agree to work together. There was no mention of a follow up meeting for July.
5. Hilary Louchheim shared the research on outdoor/cold weather recess that she had been asked to compile at the previous SDMM. Hilary reported that there is no formal New York State policy on outdoor/cold weather recess, and that she and many other parents feel that the Sagg School policy is overly conservative, and that this should be re-evaluated, updated and formalized. Mrs. McGinniss mentioned that even when they do not go outside, students still get recess indoors. Mrs. McGinniss said that it was an unusually harsh winter. All present at the meeting agreed that outdoor recess is important. Attendees then discussed how parents, teachers and the school board could work together to support outdoor recess, even during winters as cold and icy as 2011. Suggestions included: snow removal on the playground, ice removal on the basketball court, parent volunteers to help monitor playground activity and assist in getting students dressed in winter gear, and collecting warm clothing to be kept at the school for children who show up without certain items. Hilary was then asked to put together a synopsis of the discussion and the report's findings to present to the school board. All agreed to revisit the issue at the next SDMM in the fall.
7. Hilary Louchheim then spoke about the outdoor movie night she has put together. It was a great idea to celebrate the end of the year. The date for the movie is June 24, 2011. She is still to collect funds from parents to make up the costs. She is also taking movie suggestions. She has Willy Wonka and Night at the Museum. No Walt Disney movies are permitted. Just email your thoughts so the children can vote on them.
8. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.