

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
Brain 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 first week in 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, where most were opposed feeling there is no rush to have any meeting during summer. Most parents feel picking up in September would be ample time since the Shared Decision Management Plan is not up for renewal until February, 2012. There is also much disagreement with Mr. Guarino's push for just choosing a few parents to be on the committee, when all parents wish to be a part of this process. Being a small school, with only 14 families, all wish to have a say and a vote at these meetings, no one wants to be excluded.
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. The math program chosen is Go Math, 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. Brian 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 took the floor and went over her research that she gathered for her suggestion that she feels (her boys) did not get enough recess outside this winter. Hilary suggested that the school guidelines, which determine whether the children should be permitted outside depending upon weather, should be evaluated and updated. Mrs. McGinniss mentioned again that even though the weather does not permit them to have recess outside, that does not mean they skip recess. The children then have inside recess to release energy and move on with the day. It was also mentioned that this year was exceptionally colder with a lot of ice and snow. For the safety of the children it was best to remain inside. The teachers also mentioned that it is not their intention to purposely keep the children inside, they actually prefer them to get outside. When the weather is very extreme the children need to bundle up with proper clothing, which some do not come prepared. With having limited time and then they come in wet and cold, needs to be measured as to how much fun they are having compared to time spent inside, being enjoyed. The final answer was to come up with ideas to make getting outside easier with more time. There is also the option to take them outside sledding after they get home from school.
6. Barbara Mueller spoke about the Sagaponack Parent Committee. She went over the objective of the committee and the mission statement that was handed out and emailed to each parent. Barbara went over the positive things the committee does for the children and school. She mentioned that they are putting together archives and instructions of how things are put together, so future members will have no problem completing projects (ex. yearbooks, fundraisers, events). Barbara also mentioned that the Parents Committee has decided that the subject of hot lunches will be done by the parents, and will get a plan into motion for the upcoming school years. We will come up with new ideas and ways of getting healthy hot lunch to our children. She also mentioned that they are always looking for new ideas and anyone can help. There will be another Parent Committee meeting Monday, September 12, 2011, at 2:00 pm.
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.