

ISC Meeting Minutes November 15, 2011 The Academy Building

Attendance: Available upon request from the ISC secretary.

Welcome: Co-President Rita Kotler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

New Business:

- Fran Guinnane spoke about the Lower Merion Scholarship Fund. This fund is strictly for the purpose of providing college scholarship money to eligible students. The primary sources of income for the fund are the profits from Legacy Portraits (school pictures), the now district-wide magazine drive and the sale of Tribute Cards. Fran encouraged the HSA presidents to publicize the cards as suitable (and welcome) gifts for teachers and administrators. The LM Scholarship Fund is happy to provide a representative to sell the cards at any school event.

Presentation by Heidi Rothbard, Nutrition Committee:

Heidi discussed the role of the SHAC (Student Health Advisory Council) in our district. They are focused on the general health and well-being of the children, especially as it concerns nutrition and fitness. They adopt their recommendations from the CDC.

The Fitness branch of SHAC holds regular meetings and events such as "Fit Fest," the LMSD run at the end of the year and "Turn Off the TV Week." The Nutrition Committee works to effect change in the cafeteria system, including "Go For the Greens" week and the Garden Project. The committee is looking for parent support. There should be a SHAC liason at each school to encourage that school's community to

participate in the various activities. HSA presidents are encouraged to seek out suitable representatives who will be effective at involving as many people as possible.

Presentation by Nancy Acconiamessa, Supervisor of Elementary Science and Math:

Ms. Acconiamessa discussed the changes in the elementary science curriculum and how they were identified. After a thorough survey of the teachers, it was decided that the district needed to refine the curriculum and update its resources.

Research in the field as well as review of other schools lend to the decision to use a combination of materials from two companies, FOSS and STC. Both are kit based and offer many STEM and embedded literacy opportunities.

The first changes took place in the fourth grade curriculum. The “Voyage of the Mimi” has been replaced with a unit on the ecosystem. All teachers were trained in 2010 and began implanting the new program this fall.

The remaining grades will see the new curriculum begin in the spring of 2012 and be completely phased in within three years.

Presentation By Dr. Joey Rider-Bertrand, Supervisor of Secondary Science and Math:

Dr. Rider-Bertrand outlined the new curriculum currently planned for the middle schools. It was developed with the goals of giving the students a complete, competitive and engaging science program as well as realizing that they need to be prepared for the topics likely to be on the PSSAs.

6th Grade - Earth Science (with tie-ins to topics covered in elementary school).

7th Grade - Life Science with a substantial ecology piece.

8th Grade- Physical Science with astronomy content and an end of the year focus on chemistry to prepare the students for 9th grade Biology.

Also discussed were the delays in the development of changes at the High School level due the uncertainty surrounding the Keystone exams.

The district is currently reviewing and researching new textbooks and programs so they will be ready to implement changes as soon as the time is right.

Upcoming Meetings:

- School Board Regular Board Meeting – November 21st at 8:00 p.m.
- School Board reorganization Meeting – December 5th at 8:00 p.m.
- ISC Joint General and Presidents Meeting – Tuesday Dec. 13th at 9:30 a.m. in the Academy Building.