

**Albany Middle School  
School Site Council  
MINUTES  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
6:15 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**The following members were present:**

- Carrie Kartman, parent
- Cynthia Mah, parent
- John Montagh, parent
- Lucy Bryndza, teacher
- Fran Sheppard, teacher
- Jamie Heans, teacher
- Linda Perez, librarian
- Kate Thomsen, student
- Eric Chen, student
- Peter Parenti, principal

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**MINUTES from 12-07-2011**

The minutes from the meeting held on 12-07-2012 were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**I. Announcements and Requests for future topics**

- a. **EQUITY TASK FORCE:** AUSD will continue its work with the district-wide equity task-force. Superintendent Marla Stephenson has called the first meeting for tonight; 01-18-2012, at 7:00pm at the Albany Community Center. This year, Superintendent Stephenson has also requested that AMS be represented by the Principal, a Staff member, and two parents.
- b. **MONTHLY UPDATE REPORTS:** It was requested that the SSC be provided with a brief report about school-wide events and activities that are happening in each grade level/department. The staff members from the SSC will begin to gather information for the next SSC meetings.
- c. **SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL FUNDS:** In previous years, SSC had a budget to manage. In the spring of 2011, it was decided that SSC funds would not be distributed to school sites in the 2011-12 school year. It was requested that we review the impact of that loss of funding. A brief report will be presented at the February SSC meeting.
- d. **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:** We are beginning an important adoption process for AMS English Language Arts programs. This process has not been followed in approximately ten years. The process will include a committee of teachers, a review of current materials, and the creation of a program that works for AMS.

## II. Engaging the parents of students at risk

The SSC Members reviewed another article from those provided from the ASCD website (ascd.org). The article's title was "Making Parent Involvement Meaningful" by Karen Rasmussen. The SSC Members each read the article individually and wrote one word, one phrase, and one sentence on separate post-it notes. Each set of Post-it notes was then displayed on a chart and discussed.

The words were as follows:

- *Inviting*
- *Ownership*
- *Communication*
- *Voice*
- *Focus*
- *Workshops*
- *Equality*
- *inviting*

The phrases were as follows:

- *'mission is to help parents become involved in school-based decision making'*
- *Share common goals*
- *Share interest*
- *Viewpoints are values*
- *...all parents want to be involved in their children's education; some just need to know how*
- *Concurrent dance or other social event for students*
- *Identify parent resources*
- *Parents bring a valuable perspective to decision making at school*

The sentences were as follows:

- *"When parents participate in interviews for school personnel," he relates, "they ask, 'is this the type of person I want my child to spend time with every day?'"*
- *"Not to paint parents with a broad brush" and believes all parents want to be involved in their children's education- some just need to know how.*
- *We should try to remodel our site into a more expressive establishment in the views of the parents.*
- *...parent involvement tends to peak while children are in elementary school and begins to decrease once they enter middle school; his goal is to keep parents involved.*
- *During a recent family night, the school focused on reading and writing.*
- *Marcum believes that the PTSA's primary mission is to help parents become involved in school-based decision making.*

In summary, the SSC did believe that we can and should initiate a variety of parent involvement activities. Examples included:

- Workshops for parents of language learners.
- Helping parents with homework strategies.

- Parent social during the school dances. Parents could drop their students off at the gym and then gather at another location for conversation and food.
- Establishing a partnership with PTA to identify events and to actively invite non-English speaking parents and parents of students at-risk by making telephone calls and other personal connections.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm