

# Ferryway School Council Meeting

December 13, 2017

**4:30P.M.—5:30P.M**

## Attendees

Abdel Sepulveda, Principal, Co-chair,  
Danielle Senopoulos, Teacher, Co-chair  
Scott Campbell, Parent  
Marijane Tuohy, Teacher  
Jessica Jackson, Teacher

## Absent

Astrid Araya, Mona Aboukhali, Tom Ruan, (Parents) Peg Crowe, (Community Representative),  
Meaghan Darraugh, (Teacher)


## Agenda

1. District's Holiday Decoration and Celebration Policy
2. Update on bilingual parents volunteer program
3. Update on ELT site visit
4. Looking at the School Improvement Plan

## Notes

Mr, Sepulvada reviewed Malden's response to input from parents regarding Holiday celebration and decoration policies. Malden's unique diversity demographics offers a wide variety of cultures and as a result, includes a plethora of various traditions, beliefs and celebrations. Each and every school in the district recognizes and respects the diversity of cultures. To that end, some take the position that celebrating no holidays will offend no one, while others feel celebrating everything would strengthen and build community. In recognition that each school is working to do what is best for their specific community, the district is giving each school the choice to create their own policy.

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The council discussed and agreed that Ferryway would best be served by embracing and celebrating everything. The community involvement at Ferryway during the month of December was enthusiastic on the part of parents, teachers and students. Activities included were; door decorations, gingerbread creations, a holiday concert and ,new this year, a holiday”store” offering each student the opportunity to choose a gift for a member of their family and have it wrapped to bring home (at no charge). It is hoped that as the year continues and parent involvement grows, many more opportunities to celebrate will be equally embraced.

Ms Tuohy updated the Council on efforts to increase parent involvement and sense of being valued as important members of the Ferryway community. As determined at the November meeting, the first step was to identify the home languages spoken by Ferryway families. With that information, the next step would be to establish liaisons that could speak these languages and recognize their cultural contributions. According to the October student census, Ferryway families speak at least \_\_\_\_\_languages. (see attached)

As reported in November, Mr. Sepulvada reminded us that due to cuts in Federal and state funding and grants, we can expect to see sharp budget cuts for the 2018-2019 fiscal year (July 1-June 30) These grants include Title I funds which pay for our literacy coaches, Title 3 funds which pay for ELL services, and ELC funds which pay for our Extended Learning Time.

The ELT site visit will take place on February 8 and 9 (2018) with snowdays scheduled for March 1 and 2.

Mr. Sepulvada updated the council on interviews and recent hires to replace teachers retiring in January. It is with heavy hearts that we say farewell to Anthony Pacetta (health), Patty Schact (grade 2), and Margie Briatico (grade 5), but we look forward to welcoming and working with our incoming teachers as they arrive.

The primary obligation of the parent council is to create and manage a three year improvement plan, Each school improvement plan requires school core values, a mission and vision and academic goals. As we are presently in the third year of the Ferryway improvement plan, it is the responsibility the task of this council to create a plan for the next three years that will be presented to the school committee in June 2018 for enactment starting for the 2018-2019 academic year

Presently, the Superintendent has expressed a district goal to be a move from a level 3 to a level 1 rating with the state. Mr. Sepulvada expressed his goal in support of the district goal to move Ferryway from it’s present level 2 to level 1 with a further aim to have Ferryway be “the number one school in the state in social emotional learning as well as academic achievement.” Current initiatives already in place this year include restorative practices, writing with colors, and the Bay State institute (K-5) with the goal of annually decreasing the number of students at risk. If the council agrees to this goal, we will need to determine terms of measuring and monitoring this goal for the next 3 years. It is hoped and expected that tne member will consider and seek out new ideas to review and discuss at the next Council meeting, Monday, January 8, 2018 at 4:30 P.M.



## Action Items

1. Consider goals discussed and possible timeline, initiatives, benchmarks, and steps needed for a three year improvement plan.
2. Determine number of students presently at risk as a base for annual decreases.

## Next Meeting Agenda Items

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by MJ Tuohy 1/1/18