


EASTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EASTON, MA

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EASTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
WORKSHOP MINUTES
Thursday, January 17, 2008

Minutes of the School Committee Workshop meeting of January 17, 2008 convened at 7:01 p.m. in the library of the H. H. Richardson School.

Present were Dawn Boynton, Bill Braun, Jane Martin, Caroline O'Neill and Rebecca Turley.

Major areas of discussion among the committee members included identify/clarify Vision, Mission, and Philosophy Statements.

It was confirmed that the Committee is not rewriting the District Vision but looking at the School Committee role as it relates to the District Vision.

Jane stated that she will confirm the following with Bill Simmons:

- history of the Vision with, Mission, and Philosophy statements;
- and clarify which one is accurate.

The Chair and Vice Chair will speak with Colleen Corona regarding the Community Visioning work. They want to be clear that an outcome of that group should not be a refined School Vision statement.

School Committee members identified the key components of our mission:

- Communicate and educate the public about what is going on in our educational community
 - Activities in the Schools
 - Policies
 - Legal Issues
 - Budgetary/Fiscal Issues
- Establish and/or approve policies that allow the District to function
- Obligated by Legal requirements at the Town, State and Federal levels
- Oversee/evaluate/hire/retain Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent
- Determine how we move our District "beyond the now" to the "next level"
- How can we influence and move the culture?

- We need to define the Culture
- We play an advocacy role for resources and community support
- We represent the community so we need to listen

What is the culture we want within our District? How do we push boundaries vs. perpetuate the status quo?

The Culture:

- Supportive and creative of innovation in the classroom
- Create an environment where we build students' self-confidence
- Create an environment of self-efficacy (Build situations where students succeed and have a cycle of positive reinforcement)
- Create a culture where children are exposed to new experiences and where they can adapt and embrace new/different ways of doing things
- Minimize the impact on "out of school" experiences on children's success
- Foster a culture of unity and equity (academics, extra-curricular, etc.)
- Create a culture of cognitive development where teachers and students see beyond their own reality

Next Steps: Complete culture discussion and focus on Main Components of our work, our meeting and how they are planned, how we become a better working group and where we are headed.

It was established that the next workshop meeting will be February 4th.

On a motion by Dr. Braun, seconded by Mrs. Martin, and with all members in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dawn Boynton
Chair

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A TRUE COPY, ATTEST:

MAY 13 2008

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