



ABORN SCHOOL
409 EASTERN AVENUE
LYNN, MA 01902

“Work hard. Respect others. Follow the Golden Rule.”

Ms. Patricia Muxie
Principal

Telephone
781-477-7320

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL AGENDA
January 16, 2014



I. Congratulations and Welcome to Our New Member...Linda LeBlanc

Ms. Muxie welcomed our new parent member, Mrs. Linda Leblanc, to our Council. Linda has 2 children at the Aborn, one in Grade 1 and the other in Grade 4. Ms. Muxie explained the purpose of the School Site Council and encouraged Linda to share her ideas for school improvement not only in regard to agenda items discussed, but also above and beyond those items.

II Classroom Door Locks...Installed! Keys and training to take place soon.

Ms. Muxie reported that new classroom door locks were installed yesterday on all classroom doors in the event that we need to put the school in lockdown. She is very glad that this has taken place as we have been advocating for them for quite some time. At the administrator's meeting she attended today, Dr. Latham said that Officer Bob Ferrari and she would be visiting the Aborn to talk to staff and train them on the protocol and procedures for using the locks. Each teacher will be given a key to use, or possibly two keys; one for the outside lock and one for the inner lock. Ms. Muxie said there was currently an issue with the master keys given to her and Mr. Pinkham, but a representative from the company was coming down to resolve it today. She will give us an update at the next meeting. Mrs. Leblanc suggested bringing lunch personnel into the discussion on lockdown procedures and protocol. Ms. Muxie stated that was an excellent idea and promised to do so, just as we have made them aware of all students with allergies, the warning signs they may witness, and the proper protocol to follow in the event a student is having an allergic reaction. We will also be discussing an appropriate location for all lockdown keys.

III. Report on Bullying Prevention Presentation and Next Steps

Parents-Staff-Students

After School Club

Grade Level Presentations

Ms. Muxie reported that she was pleased with the turnout for the recent Bullying Prevention Presentation she did with Mr. Eddy on January 6th. We had 70 families attend. This is a high rate of response. After the parent presentation, Mr. Eddy and Ms. Muxie repeated the presentation at the faculty meeting. The presentation will now be adapted for students by grade level. She hopes to meet with all grade levels prior to the winter break. She said that the presentation for Grades 4&5 will include cyberbullying and the new laws and regulations surrounding it. In support of our efforts to prevent bullying, Mrs. Drakopoulos has agreed to continue the banish Bullying After-School Club we began last year. This will start during the week of January 27th.

IV. Math Family Night-March

In keeping with our efforts to meet the parents' requests for additional evening meetings focused on school goals and curriculum, we are finalizing plans for our Family Math Night which will be held in March. This will be a full family event to increase enjoyment and achievement in the area of Math. Mrs. Drakopoulos has been working with grade level teams during PLC time and Faculty meeting time to finalize games and activities. Our Council group (and the PTO previously) discussed using an incentive of make your own ice cream sundae as a motivator for good attendance. We will move forward with that idea. Ms. Hennessey agreed to contact Treadwell's Ice Cream of Peabody, once we choose the date. Ms. Chez and Ms. Driscoll agreed to get some high school students and Aborn Alumni to volunteer to scoop the ice cream. This will enable all parents to participate in the math activities.

V. First in Math Program

Ms. Muxie gave an update of the First in Math program, which we are encouraging students to use to increase Math achievement. She will be sending out an additional flyer in both English and Spanish to remind parents about the program. Looking at usage statistics from the Program's inception, the Aborn has jumped from being 22nd in the district to being in the top 10 (#8). A concern was voiced about the fact that the same students are earning the title of Player of the Week. Ms. Amico said that while that may be true on a school level, at the class level, she has had good variety in tracking Player of the *Day*. Ms. Muxie stated that at the administrator's meeting today, principals were made aware of some new tools in the program that will help schools set goals and recognize different types of achievement. She will be investigating and using some of these tools in the future.

VI. Polo Day-Uniform Trial

As a result of our uniform survey, we saw that parents were in favor of uniforms 3-1. In an effort to move forward with a trial related to the survey, we will institute a Polo Day each week for the second half of this school year. The PTO and Ms. Hennessey will assist us in finding an economical company to use for polo shirt creation and distribution. Polos will be navy blue with the word *Aborn* and a small owl logo in white.

VII. Professional Learning Community (PLC) Activities

Ms. Muxie wanted to make the council aware of the fact that the district supports teacher collaboration by funding Professional Learning Community Days once a month. These days enable grade level teams and specialists to meet and plan curriculum-related activities. The focus of our PLC Days here at the Aborn has been to create strong content area vocabulary lists in the four major content areas of ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Science, so that students have a strong foundation as they head off to Middle School. These lists are aligned with the most recent MA Frameworks and the Common Core State Standards, as well as the most recent Lynn Public Schools curriculum documents. We've also used the PLCs to focus on standards-based lesson planning and assessment analysis.

VIII. Budget Item Information

Ms. Muxie informed the council that she recently used some money from our Pennies for Technology collections to purchase a subscription to the Houghton Mifflin Math online student edition which many of our teachers project onto their SmartBoards for instructional purposes. Teachers were thrilled to have the subscription back since the district no longer purchases it for schools. We were also going to use some of the same funds for new headsets for our Computer Lab, however,

IX. Hockemeyer Studios

We switched photography companies this year based on some dissatisfaction with our previous company. After several interviews and conversations with different vendors, Ms. Muxie decided to go with Hockemeyer Studios. Overall feedback has been very positive. Better package prices, streamlined services, better rapport with students and staff were all noted. They are also willing to work with Mr. Eddy on the Grade 5 yearbook. A discussion ensued about a different format for the class photos (rectangular individual shots with names below). If the company could provide those OR keep the group photos but have the photographer a little closer, it would be great. Ms. Muxie will pass along that request to the company.

X. Other

The parents on the Council were wondering if one of the tech administrators would be willing to put on a parent workshop for all parents at all schools (perhaps at a central location) to talk about internet safety for children. Ms. Muxie said she would ask the Tech Dept. (Shannon Stevens).

XI. Next Meeting Date: March 13, 2:30-3:30