

SAGAPONACK COMMON SCHOOL  
SHARED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE (SDMC)

MINUTES of the SDMC Meeting December 12, 2013, at 2:45 PM, at the Sagaponack School.

The following were present at the meeting:

Alan Van Cott (Superintendent and Facilitator)  
Diana McGinniss (Head Teacher)  
Terry Scammell (Teacher)  
Jessica Thilberg (Substitute Teacher & Acting Note Taker)  
Deborah Quimby (Parent Rep)  
Karin Bodington (Parent)  
Darienette Sutton (Parent)  
Denise Walsh (Parent)

*Childcare was kindly provided by Sagg alumni, Irene Hatgistavrou, Claudia Fino and Julius Mueller, who are receiving community service credit towards graduation.*

Since a quorum was present the minutes of the SDMC of November 21, 2013 were approved by consensus with minor additions.

1. Common Core Learning Standards: Mr. Van Cott spoke briefly about discussing the new shifts. Mrs. McGinniss spoke about the shifts of the Common Core State Standards. These are the areas that have changed from the New York State Learning Standards to the Common Core Learning Standards. Mrs. McGinniss directed parents to look at the chart to see what parents should do to help facilitate the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards at home. She instructed parents to go through the six shifts for Math and English Language Arts for any possible questions.
2. Dispelling the myths of Common Core Learning Standards: We are teaching the Common Core Learning Standards. The Modules and Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) are not the same. The Common Core includes a series of standards. The Modules are sample lesson plans and units of study that incorporate the CCLS. The CCLS drive the curriculum. The Modules are based on the CCLS and serve as a sample curriculum. The CCLS are mandated...the Modules are optional.
3. Engage NY: Mr. Van Cott called attention to the Engage NY Parents Backpack to help parents reinforce what is being taught in the classroom. Mr. Scammell also instructed parents to go on the Engage NY website to learn more about the Common Core Learning Standards
4. Parent Observations of Modules: Darienne Sutton observed Mrs. McGinniss on two occasions teaching 3rd Grade ELA Modules. Denise Walsh observed Mr. Scammell teaching 4th Grade ELA Modules.
  - a. Darienne Sutton read through the ELA Modules prior to the lessons. She felt the recurring theme of the modules were going "deeper." The modules will teach students to be inquisitive. She was happy the modules are being adapted and not adopted so that students are not overwhelmed. Darienne felt that pacing the modules was important so students really grasp what is being taught.
  - b. Mrs. McGinniss indicated that the focus of the Common Core Learning Standards are to take a broad area of concepts and focusing and going deeper into the concepts. For years, Mrs. McGinniss and Mr. Scammell attended training courses to stay ahead of the Common Core Learning Standards, including one modules

workshop each. Modules focus on four domains- reading, writing, speaking, and listening between peers and adults. These communication skills are imperative at every grade level to be college and career ready.

c. Mr. Scammell spoke about how aspects of the 4th grade modules build background knowledge through a variety of texts. Common Core Learning Standards are listed for each module and expected amount of time for each lesson. Modules focus on reading, writing and communication between peers.

d. Denise Walsh enjoyed the lesson she observed. She liked the focus on the content areas. Denise liked the intent of the Common Core Learning Standards citing strong study skills and increased vocabulary. She doesn't want teachers individuality to be overshadowed by the modules because of their scripted nature.

5. Math: Mr. Scammell mentioned that it has been stated two different math series were being used. He wanted to clarify only Go Math is being used. There are two Go Math books (text and practice books) that are both aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards. Focus is on students explaining their process not just arriving at an answer. Mr. Scammell feels the school has had success thus far with the Go Math series. There is also an online component for parents to access if the teachers or parents feel their child is struggling with a specific concept. Math Modules were reviewed and are comparable with the Go Math series.

6. Washington D.C Trip: Mr. Van Cott encouraged parents to plan the D.C trip through a parents organization. The Board did not approve the trip to be sponsored by the Sagaponack School. Mr. Van Cott suggested that parents write a proposal.

7. Mystery Reader: An email went out last week from Darienne Sutton to all of the parents with dates they can choose from to read to the children.

8. Mrs. McGinniss indicated that Lauren Thayer and Ellen Wilford would like to be a part of the committee that promotes the school. How do we get In District students back into the school? Ellen Wilford suggested trying to get kids back from surrounding schools. Some suggestions were:

a. Have a Sagg School Birthday Party in September or June.

b. Advertise in local preschools such as the Country Day School.

c. Put enrollment information posted on the Sagaponack board outside during the summer. (Note: This is done each summer)

d. Technology Night-Have the students teach their parents how to use the Chromebook.

9. It was agreed that the next SDMC would take place on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the school.