

**Willard SAC Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2015 (Approved)**  
(Prepared by Kate Hennighausen)

**Present:** Pat Fernandes, Jeanne Connolly, Kate Mullen, Rudd Coffey, Rebecca Comjean, Kate Hennighausen, and Anne Kilroy

**Absent:** Liz Berk, Katie Kerr

**Classroom News:**

**Kindergarten (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In math, the teachers are piloting *Everyday Mathematics 4* units on sorting, combinations of five, ten frames and the concepts of more/less. In literacy, the students are writing using sentence starters, working on hearing/generating rhyming words, and using the Telian Lively Letters program to learn letter/sound correspondence. In science, the students are learning about the five senses in science and using the five senses to observe the Willard school tree during the transition to fall. Some classes are learning about snails. Open Circle has covered whole body listening, kindness in the classroom and giving/receiving compliments.

**First Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** First graders are working on narrative writing and adding details/description, as well as forming lower case letters. They are learning short vowel sounds. Author Brian Lies visited. In math, students are working on 2-D geometry using pattern blocks and shape software. In science, the topic is weather. Open Circle has covered non-verbal signals, listening, and kindness. First graders had Halloween fun day with themed academic activities.

**Second Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** Second graders are learning about the Alcotts and African American families who lived in Concord as part of the Long Ago unit in social studies. In math, half of the classes are piloting the *Everyday Mathematics* curriculum and half are continuing to use *Investigations*. Students are learning about fact strategies, shapes, and arrays/columns/rows. The science unit is Pebbles, Sand and Silt. Students compare/sort rocks and think about how rocks change (e.g., erosion).

**Third Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** Third graders are reading novels and summarizing major points. They are working on

expository writing and reviewing paragraph structure. In math, students are learning place values and solving 2- and 3-digit addition problems. In science, the students continue to study the solar system. The Concord Museum helped students complete archaeological digs in each classroom.

**Fourth Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In reading, fourth graders are learning elements of fiction (e.g., characters, dialogue, mood, point of view) and working on comprehension strategies. Author Gregory Mone visited classes to talk about becoming an expert on a subject before writing about it and the importance of revision. Students are writing personal narratives. They are working on crafting a lead, adding details, and writing meaningful endings. The math unit is multiplication and division. Flexible math groups have started based on student needs. The science unit focuses on turtles.

**Fifth Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In reading, fifth graders are focusing on close reading, figuring out an author's purpose, and finding key details to support the author's main idea. Students are working on components of narrative writing, elements of action, and thoughtful revision. The *Everyday Math* pilot is covering multiplication, place values, and exponents using base 10. In science, students are learning about rocks and minerals.

**Physical Education (presented by Kate Mullen):** Grades 3-5 completed the half-mile or mile fitness test. All grades will play a capture the flag game that builds running skills, cardiovascular fitness, strategy and problem solving skills, and teamwork.

**Library (presented by Kate Mullen):** Kindergarteners are studying the authors Rosemary Wells and Mem Fox. First graders are comparing and contrasting different versions of fairy tales. Second graders continue to learn about different reference books. Third graders are reviewing call numbers and how to find fiction and non-fiction books on the shelves. Fourth graders are continuing their unit on genres. Fifth graders reviewed how to use non-fiction resources and will start the Library President project.

**Music (presented by Kate Mullen):** Kindergarten classes are singing songs about food and learning the concept of beats. First graders are practicing the play "Little Red Hen" and learning quarter and eighth notes. Second graders are learning the new note, So, and learning

sixteenth notes. Third graders are singing songs and will soon start playing recorders. Fourth graders are learning about syncopation, rounds, and rondo form. Fifth graders are continuing to study early rock musicians. The 5th grade chorus is preparing to sing for the MLK celebration at the Fenn School in January.

**Art (presented by Kate Mullen):** Kindergarteners are working on drawing. First and fourth graders are starting a clay unit. Second, third, and fifth graders are painting. Fifth graders are keeping all art at school to prepare for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Art Retrospective Exhibit in May.

**Principal's Report (presented by Pat Fernandes):** Willard marked Halloween with the Kindergarten costume parade and themed academic activities for the younger grades. The *Author's Fest* has concluded until the spring, when Nancy Poydar will visit K classrooms. A lock down drill went smoothly and an evacuation drill is scheduled for the near future. The Math Olympiad has begun for fourth and fifth grades. The book fair was a success; teachers and the library received many book donations.

Mrs. Fernandes reported that statewide PARCC results were released recently. The DESE informed principals that PARCC score reports would be sent to schools for distribution to parents later this month. The DESE allowed superintendents and principals to review PARCC results, but these results are currently embargoed. Mrs. Fernandes plans to discuss Willard's PARCC scores at the December SAC meeting. The DESE should make a decision about which standardized test the state will use in the future by mid-November.

**Overview of the Willard School Improvement Plan (presented by Pat Fernandes):** Mrs. Fernandes highlighted goals for social/emotional learning. The Open Circle curriculum is enhanced by an anti-bullying curriculum. A building-wide mindfulness initiative is new this year. Each grade will plan and lead an assembly, and a team will explore future options for assemblies. Willard students will continue to participate in outreach and service opportunities, such as Trick or Treat for UNICEF and the Open Table food drive. Faculty members will continue to have opportunities to discuss best practice and student performance at grade-level progress meetings. A new goal for this year is to raise student's awareness of Willard being a green school and to create a sense of stewardship (e.g., fourth graders are trying to reduce paper towel use).

Mrs. Fernandes also reported on technology goals, including building age-appropriate digital skills in the classroom and library, having the technology specialist coach 3-5 grade teachers on writing in a collaborative digital environment, and having staff develop a good working knowledge of Baseline Edge, My Learning Plan, and Google Drive.

**Adjournment:**

The November meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next Willard SAC meeting will be December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.