

**Willard SAC Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2016 (Approved)**  
(Prepared by Rebecca Comjean)

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

**Absent:** Liz Berk

**Classroom News:**

**Kindergarten (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In Math, students are continuing the EM4 Math Pilot. In Literacy, students are continuing to work with Telian to teach letter sound correspondence- working on writing simple sentences with sight words- blending/segmenting sounds. In Handwriting, students are being introduced to lowercase letters. In Open Circle, students are learning the social curriculum, the "Double D" behaviors and "Annoying behaviors"- what to do when you observe this behavior in school or at home. In Health, students are working on the Family Unit, students are learning about what makes their family special, what is their role in their family, who is in your family etc. In Science, students are continuing to learn about living/non living things. They will begin the sink and float unit at the end of the month.

**First Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In Literacy, students continued practicing the 4 H brothers. They learned about the magic "e" rule and finished learning the correct formation of all lower case letters in handwriting. Students are encouraged to use lower case with all writing. In writing, students finished up the persuasive writing unit. The students learned to write letters to persuade someone to do something, wrote reviews of books, movies, or special places. Some classes also asked students to invent a product, including the reasons that someone would want to use the product. In Reading, students continued with guided reading while completing mid-year TCA's. Teachers used progress meeting time to assess students. In Math, students finished up their first math swap. Students practiced story problem strategies, learned about the 100's chart by deconstructing and putting it back together, and worked on their own counting strips. They continue to get excited for the arrival of Captain Zero – now up to the 80<sup>th</sup> day. The next math unit is measurement. In Science, students finished up the weather unit, which

ended with completion of alpha boxes, which is thinking of a weather word for every letter of the alphabet. In Social Studies, students began this past week with an introduction to maps and directionality. In Open Circle, students spent time going over the Double D's, annoying behavior and teasing.

**Second Grade (presented by Jeanne Connolly):** In Reading, students did not have groups, instead individual TC assessments were done. Literacy instruction included whole class lessons in ***Making Meaning***, focusing on comprehension of both fiction and nonfiction literature. In Writing, students worked on Persuasive writing. In Math, students worked on number sense, addition/subtraction strategies; telling time and place value to 100. In Social Studies, students worked on Maps and Globes. They learned about the attributes of maps, and how to read maps. In Science, students learned about energy--sources, uses, and kinds of energy and the definition of energy. In Open Circle, the topics were kindness and dealing with annoying behaviors.

**Third Grade (presented by Katie Kerr):** In literacy, students are reading nonfiction texts featuring activities using ***National Geographic*** magazines. In writing, students are finishing up expository writing and beginning narrative. In Math, students are beginning a multiplication unit, starting with "Muffles Truffles", which is a hands-on unit, which provides an introduction to multiplication. The theme of the unit focuses on putting chocolates in boxes-arrays. In Science, students have finished planet research and are now beginning an electricity unit. In Social Studies, third graders are finishing up Native American work.

**Fourth Grade (presented by Katie Kerr):** In literacy, students are reading nonfiction, which includes reading about China and the weather. They are making connections between reading and science/social studies. Students are also practicing close reading skills, which include looking at the text to determine the author's purpose. In Writing, students are finishing structure and expository writing and starting persuasive writing by looking at examples. In Math, students are in math groups for multiplication and division and practicing math facts. In Science, students are learning about weather and the different types of clouds, wind and weather instruments. In Social Studies, students are learning about Ancient China, geography, poetry, myths, dynasties of Ancient China, inventions and ways of life.

**Fifth Grade (presented by Katie Kerr):** In Reading, students are summarizing and beginning to start *Tuck Everlasting*. They are answering questions and providing evidence from the text to demonstrate their comprehension of the text. In Writing, students are working on informational writing and integrating it with social studies. In Math, students finished up a unit on fractions- addition and subtraction, using visuals, number lines, and fraction circle pieces. They are now starting a unit on decimals. In Social Studies, students are finishing up work on Native tribes- Plains, Northeast, and Arctic. Students became experts on food, clothing, and shelter of their region. The big idea was where you live affects how you live. In Science, students are learning about Simple Machines

**Physical Education (presented by Kate Mullen):** Students are in the midst of a 3-week unit on basketball. Students have been working on dribbling, passing, and shooting through various lead up games. This is for all grade levels from K to 5. The next unit will be on volleying and volleyball.

**Library (presented by Kate Mullen):** Students in Grades 1 and 2 are continuing to study the parts of books. Grade 3 will be learning how to find books using the online catalog. Grade 4 is finishing their genre unit. Grade 5 will be starting Digital Citizenship and Online Searching.

**Music (presented by Kate Mullen):** Kindergarten classes are learning about beats--that they are steady and can go fast or slow, depending on the song. They are learning about Raffi and learning the game, Thorn Rosa. The 1st graders are learning rests this month--the concept of a silent beat, with emphasis on the fact that this silence takes up a beat. They will also be working on the play, "The Little Red Hen". Second graders are still exploring some patterns that go with so, mi, and la. They will be learning 16th notes and preparing to learn the new note, Do. Third graders are doing the best ever with recorder playing. This month, they will be seeing the notes they know--B,A,G, and E--on the staff. Fourth grades will be exploring some musical forms--Rondo and ABA. They are learning lots of new notes to play on recorders. Fifth grades are learning about chords and their use. They will learn about Bob Dylan and his protest music. They should know some famous guitar players by the end of the month.

The 5th grade chorus is singing in the MLK concert on Jan. 13th at 7 pm at the Fenn School. All are welcome to attend.

### **Art (presented by Kate Mullen):**

Kindergartners and first graders are starting painting with watercolors. Second graders are glazing their clay tiles: the theme was small moments. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are finishing up glazing clay and are about to start painting on paper. Fourth graders are in the middle of a painting unit--portfolios will be going home in a few weeks. Clay sculptures will be too. Fifth graders are wrapping up a painting unit and are beginning clay with sketches of their ideas for clay islands.

### **Principal's Report (presented by Pat Fernandes):**

#### **Willard News:**

A new teacher is starting at Willard this January. Stacy Entel is a ELL teacher from Wayland Public Schools. She will be replacing Julia Doherty who resigned to take a new position. Two teachers are also back from maternity leave, Erica Josselyn and Kimberly Mayerson.

Progress reports will be mailed out to parents in early February. The 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report will be mailed out at the end of the year.

The 90<sup>th</sup> day of school is January 26<sup>th</sup>. The students are invited to donate \$.50 to Open Table to celebrate the special day by dressing in a one-half fashion.

The Souper Bowl will be held again this year the week before the Super Bowl, January 31st. Cans are collected for Open Table during this community service project.

The PARCC schedule has been posted to the Willard website. Each grade (3-5) will participate in 3 days of ELA testing then have a few days with no testing and then continue with 4 days of Math testing. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also participate in a science MCAS test.

The Kindergarten registration will be held over 2 days, April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>. With the information provided by the Town Census, Willard will likely have 3 kindergarten classes next year.

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are enjoying their work with Steven Ratiner who is a Chinese Poetry and Ancient China specialist. Mr. Ratina is visiting their classrooms several times during this month. This opportunity has been made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning a lot from this program.

**District News:**

The Concord Public School Committee is launching a wide search for a new Superintendent, starting January 2016.

The 2016 – 2017 school budget is under development at this time.

**Adjournment:**

The January meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Comjean