

Willard School SAC Meeting Notes May (Approved)

May 1, 2017

Present: Liz Berk, Pat Fernandes, Katie Kerr, Rachael Morris, Kate Mullen, Carolyn Ferraioli, Rebecca Comjean, Anne Kilroy

The SAC Minutes from April 10, 2017 the meeting were approved.

Classroom News:

Kindergarten and Grades 1 & 2 (presented by Rachael Morris)

Kindergarten

Open Circle traffic signal to solve problems
Planting unit is wrapping up and terrarium unit beginning will compare and contrast moss to tree seedlings and pill bugs to darkling beetles.
Three page booklets in writing doing narrative end of year sample and writing with lower case letters

First Grade

Spring is alive in Science – caterpillars & tadpoles arrived
Assebet River Field Trip & then visit to Butterfly Place
Writing Workshop poetry

Second Grade

planting unit
Henry David Thoreau
Thoreau visits the classroom
Field trip to Walden Pond – first in a couple years

Grades 3, 4, & 5 (presented by Katie Kerr)

Third Grade

Math- multiplication and division facts, continuing with fractions
Writing- personal narratives, poetry
Reading- *Because of Winn Dixie*
Science- living things, Bug Works is coming in a few weeks
Social Studies- Concord , MA and the New England States

Fourth Grade

Math- multiplication of fractions

Immigration in reading and social studies, just went to the Lowell Mills, Immigration Day will be on May 23rd

Magazine project

Dr. Windmiller came in again to talk about turtles- they will be released in June

Fifth Grade

In Math- multiplication of mixed numbers, geometry

Writing- Students are working on personal narratives.

Reading- narrative poetry, some classes are working on shared inquiry using Jr.

Great books

Science- MCAS review

Tea party/boat camp trip is coming up

Continuing with DARE lessons

Specialist News (presented by Kate Mullen)

Art – Kristin Saunders

5th Grade: Art exhibit prep continues. Also, students will be glazing their clay islands in the next two weeks.

4th Grade: Working on "Theme and Variation" drawings (integration with music class) and soon to start building clay cities.

3rd Grade: still working on puppets--they are nearly done! Next up short puppet show skits

2nd Grade: Students will re-visit painting for a few weeks. Then on to self-portraits

1st Grade: Students are revisiting paper sculpture. Now they are learning how to make people and animals as well as how to build cylinders and support tall shapes.

K: working on spring self-portraits (these will be sent home soon alongside their fall self portraits)

Physical Education – Mike Germond

Grades K-2 are finishing up a rope jumping unit this week. Next week these groups will be playing a four way capture the flag game called Harry Potter. The following 2 weeks grades K-2 will be starting a striking unit.

Grades 3-5 are finishing up teamwork and cooperative games this week. Next week, grades 3-5 will be having their fitness test: 1/2 mile run (Gr. 3), mile run (Gr. 4 & 5).

The 2 weeks following these groups will be starting a street hockey unit.

Music – Charlyn Bethell

May in the music room:

Classes 2 - 5 will study the Mozart opera, "The Magic Flute"

K classes will do the in-house musical play, "The 3 Nanny Goats". They will also explore general and personal space.

1st Grade classes will do the musical play, the "Three Piggy Opera". We will explore the musical staff and draw it as a music house.

2nd Graders will practice the note Do and will learn about measures in music. We will review all the notes we know and learn about 2/4 meter and measures.

3rd Graders are playing recorders and reading notes. They completed a composition unit and are playing each other's songs!

4th Graders are studying minimalist music.

5th Graders are learning about Baroque and Classical periods in music history. They are dancing to Alunelul from Romania and Ve David from Israel.

The Fifth grade chorus is singing for Arts Night on May 24th at 7 pm. They will be singing: Fun Train, Circle Round the Moon, Thula Klizeo, Twelve Gates, and a round or two.

Library – Erica Josselyn

Kindergarteners will listen to a variety of stories and explore the nonfiction section on the library.

Students in grade 1 will begin a research project on weather words.

Students in grade 2 will be doing projects related to our sister school in Nanae, Japan.

Students in grade 3 will be completing their arthropod research projects by creating eBooks which, will be published and shared through the library website.

Students in grades 4 and 5 will begin spring research projects.

Willard News (presented by Pat Fernandes)

MCAS

wrapped up ELA (3 testing sessions) currently finishing up ELA make-up tests

Thur & Fri. begin Math (2 testing sessions) for 3rd graders

Following week Math for 4 & 5th graders

then 5th Grade Science tests will be administered the week after that

Online testing (except for 5th Grade Science)

going well – thanks to Genoveva Matheus for amazing technical support

Staffing News

Janice Shear retiring

Katie Lyons 1 year leave of absence – (candidate being put forward to fill her position)

Sharon Hehn – moving to Language Arts Specialist position (candidate being put forward to fill her position)

Events

May 7th Science Fair – sign-up have increased in past few weeks. This year's event has an Eco-friendly category

The rescheduled Spelling Bee will be held the same Sunday as the Science Fair

May 9th School Committee presentation done by Willard

Earth Care Club will share the work that they presented at Cooler Concord Fair.

May 24th 5th Grade Arts Night
June 4th is Carnival
June 15th 5th Grade celebration
June 16th last day of school

Homework

Staff has read articles and spent 2 faculty meetings discussing the articles.
The Leadership Team has discussed the research and wanted to share the articles with the staff and determine how the staff feels.
Pat will be summarizing the ideas of the staff in order to share ideas with parents and she will share it with Matt Lucey
The general consensus is that reading is vital to all students in all grade levels—reading for pleasure especially fiction is critical to students' academic success.
lower grades reading focus homework only
upper grades would like to have reading focus but add home opportunities to do Type to Learn and practice Math facts
Also teachers can add projects (curriculum based projects etc.)
The faculty feels that family time is important as is playing outside and being active.
The staff also discussed mental health concerns and the increase in anxiety and stress amongst students
Staff members expressed hope to see an uptake in student achievement due to lack of stress over homework.

Grounds Committee

Town Meeting passed the warrant articles so money for grounds will be available.
Pat talked with PTG about co-sponsoring any solicitation of parents' ideas for additional work beyond the \$200,000 Capital Plan.
Feedback from PTG was to get the outside project started – begin process of getting bids etc. and let's wait for that work to take shape before soliciting ideas for additional exterior projects.

School Improvement Plan

Begins with review of this years plan
First several pages review what has been done reviewing different goal areas
Then the goals are each discussed
With change of principal we don't want to add too much 'new' to school goals – there are already many new things happening (i.e. Spanish, new Science and Social Studies)

Some additional new items /changes:

Language Arts

Close Reading goal is being changed a bit to encourage use of new books from grant written by Katie Lyons

- LLI – Level Literacy Intervention – several teachers trained in this program we are targeting our weakest readers with this program

Math – using new EM4 curriculum is going to increase student achievement research shows the spiral works and we are hoping to see this positive increase especially in our high needs student population

School Climate – assemblies very important but going forward staff will collaborate with new principal to develop a plan for the 2017-2018 school year.

Mindfulness Implementation Committee – looking at research and finding a common message to send out to parents and community members about the importance of mindfulness across all grades.

Welcoming community here at Willard we want to make sure all families feel welcome here.

Homework – continue the discussion about homework with faculty

Technology – students are much better educated with Google Drive currently K-1 teachers have more access to iPads
continue looking for meaningful apps to add to iPad
continue Hour of Code experience and look for ways to enhance it
district is opening up Innovation Lab next year – the vision is that all classrooms will have the opportunity to visit and work on STEAM activities during the year it will be staffed by Diane Kablik and it will provide ongoing professional development for teachers

Respectfully submitted,
Rachael Morris