

WILLARD SAC MINUTES (Approved)
February 6, 2017

Present:

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

Absent: Rudd Coffey

Review/Approval of January SAC Minutes:

It was suggested that Teacher's Notes be attributed to the SAC Representative. With changes, to be made by Pat, the January SAC minutes were approved.

What's New at Willard? Teachers' Perspective

Kindergarten-Rachel Morris

100th Day of School Fun – counting 100 objects, measuring with 100 steps, thinking about what it would be like to be 100
Sink and Float unit in Science
Writing Workshop continues
Groundhog Day fun

First Grade-Rachel Morris

Captain Zero – 100th Day celebration in the auditorium big reveal Carl Sweeney is Captain Zero
Maps – based on *Me on the Map* by Joan Sweeney
Blends - cinnamon sugar toast activity reinforces the concept

Second Grade-Rachel Morris

Bash the Trash – amazing introduction to energy – large group assembly followed by individual classroom visits
Persuasive Writing – prompt is 'What is the best Holiday?'
Terrific Black History Month Scholastic News – writing letters to woman who participated in sit-ins as a child

Grade 3 – Katie Kerr

Math- Fractions and Multiplication Strategies- using visual models to see equivalent fractions, using known multiplication facts to solve harder problems

Literacy - Opinion/Persuasive Writing- clear ideas- starting by writing a paragraph about Books Vs. TV
Science- matter and motion- learning about magnetism and gravity with lots of hands-on experiments

Grade 4- Katie Kerr

Social Studies - The study of ancient China is integrated into all subjects. Steven Ratiner- will be doing Ancient Chinese brush painting as part of a Residency funded by Mass Cultural Council.

Literacy- learning about Chinese cultures through nonfiction texts, realistic fiction, and folktales. Continuing to study nonfiction. Working on creative narratives- students have been excited to write a fantasy story.

Math- large multiplication problems- solving multi-step word problems that involved unit conversions

Grade 5 – Katie Kerr

Math: Just took Mid-Year test. Now working on Unit 5 - adding/subtracting mixed numbers, introducing fraction multiplication and division (using visual models first)

Science: Everyone is busy with the new Earth, Sun, & Moon unit. Topics include the sun & shadows and the earth's relationship to the sun and moon. Lots of outside investigations and modeling of concepts in class.

Social Studies – Individual 5th grade classes are either finishing up Native American unit or working on Early Exploration with various projects, maps, and non-fiction reading.

Art - Kristin Saunders (Reported by Kate Mullen)

Grade 5: Some are finishing up paper sculptures and are now onto observation drawing.

Grade 4: The fourth graders are finishing up observation drawing and then onto printmaking.

Grade 3: Some are finishing up paper sculptures and are now onto observation drawing.

Grade 2: Grade two is painting with watercolors and tempera.

Grade 1: First grade is painting with watercolors and soon will start tempera (some already have).

Kindergarten: The kindergartners are painting with watercolors. Portfolios have been sent home. They have created a fun collage mural about Winter - a class collaboration.

Physical Education - Mike Germond (Reported by Kate Mullen)

Grades K-2: In the midst of finishing up the volleying unit: playing a modified volleyball type game called "Newcomb." These grade levels started with volleying balloons and then onto beach balls.

Students learned how to do a forearm bump and the overhead set. They are also developing and practicing their throwing and catching skills.

Grades 3-5: In the midst of a volleyball unit. Students have worked on the forearm bump, the overhead set, spiking and the underhand and overhand set. They are now using those skills during a volleyball game with beach balls.

Monday PE classes are a couple of weeks behind due to holidays. Starting next week, grades K-2 will be playing a bowling game called Team Pin Blitz and the grade 3-5 classes will be playing a modified kickball activity called Doink.

Music - with Charlyn Bethell (Reported by Kate Mullen)

K—The kindergartners are getting ready for our Valentine singing tour. They are also studying songs by Woody Guthrie.

1st—The first grade learned about rests in music.

2nd—Second grade is getting ready to learn the note DO and about 2/4 meter in music.

3rd—Grade three is reading notes on the staff and playing recorders.

4th—The fourth grade is studying the musical form, Rondo.

5th—Grade five is studying blues and jazz artists.

Library – with Erica Josselyn (Reported by Kate Mullen)

The kindergartners are listening to trickster tales and various stories by Rosemary Wells.

Grade 1 students are comparing variations of fairy tales and learning about fairy tale elements.

Grade 2 students are learning how to use different types of reference sources, both in print and online.

Grade 3 students are completing a unit on Digital Citizenship.

Grade 4 students are studying different literary genres including different types of folklore.

Grade 5 students are completing their Digital Citizenship unit and will be moving on to website evaluation strategies.

What's New at Willard? - Principal's Perspective

Pat pointed out that the Chinese POET IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM has been made possible by a grant from the Mass. Cultural Council.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT - Pat met two of the three finalists when they were visiting the elementary schools. All were bright, talented candidates. Laurie Hunter has accepted the position. She has been an Elementary Principal and an Assistant Superintendent. Pat added that were she to be remaining as Willard Principal next year, she would feel very comfortable with her. She feels that Laurie will be great with faculty and families.

WILLARD SOUPER BOWL - This was again a great success, but because the Pats were in the Super Bowl this year's challenge was to exceed last year's 842 -cans total rather than to pick one's favorite team. SUCCESS! 927 cans are awaiting delivery to Open Table. Pat has tried to connect with Open Table and will try connecting with Jeanine Calabria, Open Table President and former Willard parent.

PATRIOTS SPIRIT DAY was a highly spirited celebration.

EARTH CARE CLUB - This is a small group of hard-working students under the guidance of Ms. Matheus and Ms. Burns. They were asked to participate in the Cooler Concord Fair. For their project, they decided to apply energy saving features found at Willard to "cardboard homes" that they constructed. They designed and insulated "houses" that were brought outside for temperature monitoring. They presented their results at the "Cool Concord Fair" with displays and two-member teams on duty throughout the day to discuss findings. The PTG funded the T-shirts they designed. Pat stated that they did an outstanding job at this very crowded and popular community event.

PRINCIPAL SEARCH - To date 50 candidates have submitted applications with a deadline of February 15. Several staff volunteered for the Interview Team that consists of all Willard constituencies including a PTG Co-President. HR Director Kelly McCausland will pre-screen and provide a smaller number of viable candidates to be interviewed. Interviews will be on March 2. Interview questions will be developed and assigned to Team members. There will most likely be site visits for finalists.

SPANISH In Spring 2014 a committee studied and recommended to include world language at the elementary level because of its many benefits. However, FUNDING and TIME to offer this was an issue. The School Committee finally was able to include funds for three elementary Spanish teachers in the 2017-2018 Budget. Two School Committee Members met with the PTG Board today and indicated their commitment to supporting the FY'18 Budget, which includes Spanish and Latin at CMS, even though the Budget is higher than the Fin Com guideline. The Budget will need to be approved at Town Meeting. If it is not approved, the language program will not be implemented in 2017-2018. It was also discussed that unanticipated increases in the Preschool Special Needs Enrollment, Tornado cleanup expenses, and unanticipated medical leaves, and a higher number of maternity leaves have necessitated that the School Committee request a Supplementary Budget for FY'17. This will need to be approved at Town Meeting as well.

TIME was equally an issue, particularly for Grade 5. All constituents submitted many possible ideas. An instrumental music teacher suggested a particular idea that was considered the most viable. The idea is that Grade 5 Band and Orchestra will happen before school. Grades 1-5 will have two 30-minute lessons weekly; K will have two 20-minute lessons. This amount of time will work with Grade 5, since 5th graders will participate in Band/Orchestra as a before school activity. All METCO fifth graders will be able to take the Middle School morning bus for Band. This plan is compatible with the Middle School schedule. Band/Orchestra teachers will follow the Middle School day schedule (8:00 - 2:30). Pat further stated that the District has committed to summer work for teachers to develop interdisciplinary units that will promote integration to make more efficient use of learning time. This project will begin this summer and will need to be developed over several summers.

VALENTINES - Two very large boxes of student-created valentines were given to Liz Berk, SAC Community Rep that she will deliver to Emerson Hospital and Minute Man Arc. More will be ready for her on Thursday. This has been an ongoing project for several years and happily received by both community organizations.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Berk

