

Pawcatuck Middle School
SBIT
Minutes of Meeting
September 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM. In attendance were E. Cravinho, L. George, J. Giulini, K. Rathbun, and M. Heughins.

Minutes of the previous meeting of May 4, 2009 were read and accepted.

Principal's Report

Jane Giulini reported an orderly opening day on August 31 with an enrollment of 375 students. She welcomed all students and teachers at the annual Welcome to PMS! Assembly. New staff include two .5 math support teachers, Courtney Bolling and Lucy Freitas. Teachers returning to PMS are Heather Pescatello and Noreen Elliott. Teachers transferring from other schools in Stonington include Betty Pacelle and Tracey Burns.

Mrs. Giulini noted that CMT Student Reports have been mailed home. Teachers have developed grade level action Plans that will address areas of concern regarding student performance.

PMS is working with SERC (Special Education Resource Center) to implement two new initiatives this year. They include RtI (Response to Intervention), a state mandated research-based approach that ensures academic/behavioral success of every child through tiers of intervention.

PMS is also partnering with SERC with the goal of making this a model inclusive school in Connecticut. Using the Step by Step model, educators focus on the strengths of a disabled child with the intention of including most children in regular education classes with accommodations only as needed.

Following the town's elementary schools, we are adopting the "It's Up To Me" positive behavior support initiative. We have begun working with students at all grade levels to create community agreement and will focus on meeting students responsible for their behaviors.

Mrs. Rathbun suggested that we start Panther Pause with "It's Up To Me".

New Business

The SBIT will continue using the 2008-09 SBIT Goal for 2009-1-. The goal is to: "Meet the needs of each child by encouraging family and community involvement".

It was suggested that we schedule our Parents as Partners Night for November 4. Second choice is November 10. Jane Giulini will check the district calendar.

We will create 3-4 informational stations for Parents as Partners Night with teachers facilitating around specific topics. Suggested areas of discussion include: mental health, technology, service learning, and tutoring.

Discussion around helping parents led to the following ideas: holding a Movie Night for children, providing free homework passes for older students who assist, and asking Stonington Human Services for support. Mrs. Giulini will discuss preliminary ideas at the October Monthly Meeting.

The next meeting of the SBIT is slated for October 5 in the PMS Library Media Center.