

Morningside Community Council Minutes  
Friday, February 13, 2009

- I. Mrs. Bramble turned on the voice recorder. Karianne welcomed everyone and attendance was noted. Present were Joan Bramble, Karianne Prince, Cindy McCandless, Michele Jones, Karen Duzy, Emily Allison and Chelle Brain. Michael Porter was absent.
- II. Minutes from last meeting were approved. There is a copy in the office for community perusal.
- III. There was a presentation from the district by Sharon Garcia, Kerri Neu and Greg Roberts about a French Dual Immersion Program. (French is used in fifty-five countries spread across five continents.) The faculty was given a presentation about this earlier in the week. This program would entail daily instruction in both English and French with the children spending half of their days in each language. A French teacher would pair with a traditional teacher to teach two classes in the immersion classes. The school then would have one Magnet class, one Traditional class and two French Immersion classes until the fourth grade, at which point they would collapse the two Immersion classes into one, assuming there is enough attrition to do so. If we decided to do this, our in-boundary slots would be filled by lottery, and the remaining seats offered by lottery to those outside our boundary area. The Traditional class would start a bit smaller, as families moving into the area wouldn't be able to join in the Immersion program. The presentation covered test scores for children in Immersion programs compared to traditional teaching methods, the background of Immersion programs in the Granite district and other programs in the state. Granite is committed to providing continuation of the languages into Junior High School, with courses in content offered in French. In High School, they would continue to offer content classes and a goal of these students graduating from High School with proficiency in three languages. There is funding from a state grant to start the program, with FTE funding to cover costs once the program is established. If Morningside is interested in this program, the timeline is a bit tight as the district would like to implement this in the fall, 2009. The school would need to apply for consideration, introduce to the school community and faculty, survey them and then the community council would need to present a preference to the Superintendent. Mrs. McCandless brought forward some of the questions that the faculty had from their earlier presentation. Their concerns were space/storage, P.E. time, potential loss of the preschool, concerns about the traditional students, elimination of choice and potentially faculty. Discussion continued with ideas to create a language-learning community in the entire school, with art, music and other mediums to enhance every students' learning experience. The council decided to proceed with a more detailed presentation for the teachers, to get their concerns and questions addressed. Possibly arrange

site visits to Eagle Bar or William Penn for the faculty to see their programs. Then we could advance to community presentations and surveys.

- IV. Mrs. Bramble and Mrs. Prince recounted their Mid Year SSAP review last Tuesday, February 10. They had a good meeting with Sundee Listello our school service director, Sherri Goodman, and Paul Hansen. Our DIBELS and YPP scores were reviewed and there was a positive response from the district.
- V. Community Council elections will be held at SEP conferences March 11 and 12. There are three candidates and Mrs. Bramble will get the statements of candidacy on the web site and in the newsletter. Karianne, Michele and Karen will work out coverage for the voting table.
- VI. There was no other business. The meeting was adjourned, and the voice recorder turned off. Our next meeting will be Friday, March 13, 2009 in the Morningside Library at 1:45 p.m.