

Lincoln Middle School School Improvement Team

The next meeting of LMS SIT is Monday, November 2, 2009 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Minutes of Monday October 5, 2009 Meeting

Attendees: Karen Allen, Jacques Benun, Christine Clark, Penelope Dvorin, Paul Harrison, Sue Kelly, Bruce Macksoud, Pam Mackey, Jocelin Petrarca, Nancy Plummer, Stephen Slattery, Nicole Tetreault, Pattie Walsh

- 1) Welcome - Sue Kelly
- 2) Old Business
 - a) Crossing Light from LMS to Lime Rock Field
 - (1) The lack of a crossing light continues to be a major concern both to SIT and PACT.
 - (2) Neither SIT nor PACT wants this matter tabled.
 - (3) SIT/PACT position: this situation is an “accident waiting to happen.”
 - (4) Currently:
 - (a) There is no pedestrian crossing light.
 - (b) Individuals frequently cross unescorted – evenings and weekends.
Note: Student athletes are currently crossed by Officer Cavanaugh or Mr. Macksoud, but only at the end of the school day – approximately 3:00 p.m. Teachers cross their students during school activities.
Crossing, however, is precarious at all times.
 - (c) Entrances to the school and to Lime Rock Field are not directly opposite each other. Students and other individuals must traverse a section where the only walking area is a thin strip of break down lane. Very dangerous.
 - (d) Despite a twenty-miles-per-hour speed limit –
Motorists travel at much higher speeds on Jenckes Hill Road. The danger posed to pedestrians is significantly magnified by the fact that there are curves in the road, close to the crossing area, coming from both directions.
Reaction time is minimal.
 - (e) The flashing “20 mph” speed-limit sign coming from the northerly direction
 1. is obscured by branches and leaves
 2. is visible only shortly after rounding the curve on Jenckes Hill Road
 - (5) Jacques Benun, a pediatrician at Hasbro Hospital, presented a study prepared by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) on the topic of Pedestrian Safety, which details the dangers of improperly structured/coordinated pedestrian-crossing areas. This study clearly states that
 - (a) The worst time of the day for a child to incur pedestrian injury is between 3 and 7 PM (36% of fatalities).
 - (b) Vehicle speed is also a key factor. At 40 mph, pedestrians have only a 15% survival rate, if hit, but at 20 mph the survival rate is 85%.

- (c) The following methods known as "Traffic Calming" are methods designed to separate pedestrians from cars by either time or space and are shown to be effective and decrease injuries by 25%.:
 - 1. wide sidewalks
 - 2. fences or barriers to prevent midblock pedestrian crossing
 - 3. raised medians/refuge islands (2 step crossing)
 - 4. overpasses or underpasses
 - 5. pedestrian traffic signal
 - 6. keep traffic low such as 20 mph sign
- (d) Of the six "traffic calming" methods noted only the speed limit (20 mph) is in place, however, the speed limit is not observed by many motorists. The overpass option was deleted from the construction budget and the pedestrian traffic signal was recently deemed "unjustified."
- (e) Interestingly enough enhanced illumination of crosswalks does not show significant benefit!
- (6) Karen Allen will address the location and sign obstruction with proper officials.
- b) Student Recognition
 - (1) A "Stand Out" recognition program will be reviewed at the October faculty meeting. Each teacher will nominate two students each month for recognition.
 - (2) It was suggested that a program that recognizes students who excel in both academics and after-school activities be considered. A culture where students think that it is "cool" to belong to after-school activities, such as chorus and drama club, is desirable.
- 3) New Business
 - a) Focus of the School Improvement Team for the 2009-2010 academic year: teaching and learning.
 - b) Daily schedule.
 - (1) Copies of prior years' schedules were brought to the SIT meeting for review and discussion.
 - (2) This is the second year for current schedule.
 - (a) Students are functioning well under this schedule. They are doing "awesome."
 - (b) This schedule works best for the majority of people: staff and students.
 - (c) Every effort has been made to accommodate staff, student and union requirements.
 - (d) It is recognized that this schedule concentrates on the "core" subjects including math, science, social studies and English.
 - (e) This schedule was created to align with budget and staff constraints. Any other staff reductions and this schedule will not work.
 - (f) The middle school philosophy of offering students the opportunity to experience as many related arts subjects is incorporated into this schedule.
 - (g) SIT members voted unanimously to support the current schedule. This position will be communicated at the October 15 scheduling committee meeting.
 - (3) 2009-2010 Drama Club director, Seth Hamilton, is holding auditions the week of October 5 for the winter production of *It Was a Dark and Stormy Night...*
 - c) Topics to be covered at upcoming meetings
 - (1) Continued development of the LMS website (currently maintained by Jay Kelley).

- (2) SIT Action Plan. Further development of the SIT Action Plan is dependent upon completion of the District Action Plan – projected to be October 24.
- (3) Grouping of students.

The next meeting of SIT is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2009, 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM. The meeting will be held in the Main Floor large group room at Lincoln Middle School.

Please refer to the Lincoln Middle School website for archived SIT minutes.

Respectfully submitted: Penelope Dvorin