

The School Improvement Council met in the Media Center on December 5 at 8 a.m. Attending were: principal Francine Goldstein, teachers Stephanie Mamakos and Nancy Sweeney, community representative Tom Boutureira and parent members Annie Gilbert, Susan Greenberg, Julie Howe and Dorie Resnik.

Our first order of business was to look at the results of the teacher survey Mrs. Goldstein distributed and compare them with the data from last spring's parent survey. There were several points of common interest, including a need for heightened emphasis on math, through professional development, enrichment opportunities and more education for parents on the Everyday Math program. Both surveys also reflected a strong desire to maintain Bancroft's current class size, which generally falls at or below the midpoint of district guidelines for each grade.

We then reviewed the 2008-2009 School Improvement Plan to see which goals were achieved. Of the six goals listed last year, three were achieved: class size was maintained, our ELA MCAs scores met or exceeded state performance targets for all subgroups and we increased the employment of our Educational Team Facilitator from half-time to nearly full. One was partially achieved; while we did not reconfigure the front office to include a reception area, two private offices and a conference room, we did succeed in installing a security system. And two goals were not met: we did not restore physical education classes to former levels, nor did we restore the operating budget to the 2002-2003 level.

We discussed which goals to keep in the 2009-2010 School Improvement Plan-class size, more physical education, restore the budget to pre-2003 levels-and which to change or adapt. Among the new propositions under consideration for inclusion in the plan is a two-part math goal that would include raising to proficient the MCAs math scores of a certain portion of students who scored in the high "needs improvement" range, as well as some sort of teacher development and parental education. We also talked about including a request for security speakers outside the building, and for ensuring a role for Bancroft representatives in the new building process.

Mrs. Goldstein will be meeting with the other elementary school principals before the holiday break to determine areas of common interest before the schools submit their improvement plans to the School Committee for review in January. After that meeting, Mrs. Goldstein agreed to draw up a rough draft of Bancroft's plan and send it to the other Council members for input before we convene again Jan. 8.

--Susan Greenberg