

The School Improvement Council held its first meeting of the year October 3 at 8:00 a.m. Attending were: principal Francine Goldstein, teachers Lauren King and Stephanie Mamakos, community representative Tom Boutoureira and parent members Annie Gilbert, Susan Greenberg, Julie Howe and Dorie Resnik.

Mrs. Goldstein welcomed the Council and discussed its purpose: to identify Bancroft's most pressing needs and devise a set of goals to present to the Andover School Committee at a meeting over the winter. We learned that typically the district's elementary schools submit one shared goal each year—such as keeping classroom size to a minimum—and then each school also lists goals specific to its community.

We discussed the results of the survey that went out to parents last spring, to which approximately 100 people responded. Among the findings: 92 percent said Bancroft has been responsive to maintaining small class size, 88 percent said they would like to see foreign language instruction implemented and 63 percent felt Bancroft students don't get enough physical education. (The full results can be viewed here on this website). The Council brainstormed different ways to address some of those issues, including maybe introducing "Expanding Horizons"-type foreign language instruction before or after school. We also talked about parental interest in learning more about the Everyday Math program, and the possibility of offering an overview letter or meeting to explain it.

In order to help us establish Bancroft's priorities for this year, we agreed to devise and administer a survey to the classroom teachers to determine which programs they would deem most useful.

The next meeting of the SIC will take place October 24 at 8 a.m., and thereafter the first Friday morning of each month.

--Susan Greenberg