

The School Improvement Council met in the Media Center on Thursday, January 15 at 8:00 a.m. Attending were: principal Francine Goldstein, teachers Lauren King, Stephanie Mamakos and Nancy Sweeney, community representative Tom Boutureira and parent members Annie Gilbert, Susan Greenberg, Julie Howe and Dorie Resnik.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Bancroft School Improvement Plan, to be presented to the School Committee on Jan. 20. Mrs. Goldstein had drawn up the plan based on her discussions with the other elementary-school principals and on our analysis of recent parent and teacher surveys. First we examined the district-wide elementary-level plan that the SC will consider. Its priority goals are: maintain class size at or below the midpoint of the current range set by the School Committee; provide adequate technology and professional development for all students to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century; and meet each school's specific staffing requests.

Then we looked at last year's Bancroft School Improvement Plan to see how we fared. We completed one goal-to meet the target range for all subgroups in the English Language Arts MCAS-and our stated goal of maintaining low class size is ongoing. The plan to expand and reconfigure the main office space has been tabled in light of the new building proposal. Three other goals remain incomplete and are taken into account in the new plan.

For FY 2009-2010, the Bancroft SIC has four basic goals: to maintain low class size; enhance technology and math instruction, improve student performance in those areas and raise parent understanding of the curriculum; redefine the responsibilities of our Educational Team Facilitator and change the job description to reflect her actual duties; and focus on safety by installing outside speakers, as well as by ensuring involvement in the school renovation/rebuilding plan.

We debated the usefulness of the goals as well as the likelihood of their winning approval in a very tight budget year, but agreed it was important to keep them all in the plan.

Update: On Jan. 20, Bancroft's SIC plan and the district-wide elementary plan were accepted by the School Committee.

The next meeting of the SIC will take place on Feb. 5 at 8 a.m.

--Susan Greenberg