



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

BOE Meeting Summary December 18, 2008 at SC

Discussion/Presentations:



1. Administrators, Trustees and those in attendance got a treat at the December 18th meeting by getting the opportunity to experience the Wellness Center at Sea Cliff Elementary School donated by the Sea Cliff PCA. The center located in the gymnasium allows students to engage in exercise in a fun and exciting way while learning about their muscles and cardiovascular health. The Wellness Center includes a rock climbing wall, trampolines, basketball, and technology-oriented games such as game bikes, and Dance Dance Revolution.

At the meeting, Director of PE, Health and Recreation, Laura Orticelle gave an update on the Tri State Health and Wellness Report. The Board is in the process of reviewing the current Wellness Policy and expand it based on Tri-State recommendations incorporating overall wellness including physical, social, nutritional and emotional health.

2. The Special Education Department under the direction of Tom Korb made several recommendations for refinements to the elementary level special education program for the upcoming school year. To better meet the needs of our students, the recommendations included the following:

- Over the next three years, the District will move to increase employment of teacher assistants (who are licensed and able to provide direct instruction) and decrease one-on-one teacher aides.

- The time a special education teacher spends in the blended classroom with the regular teacher will increase from 1 hour to 2.5 hours each day. A teacher assistant will support the classroom teacher for the remainder of the day.

- The “New Blended Model” is based on the practice of co-teaching. Teacher support, teacher planning and teacher training are crucial to its success. Teacher training sessions on various methodologies will be available to all elementary teachers.

Dr. Melnick discussed that additional staff would be necessary to implement the recommendations to the special education department. He emphasized that these recommendation will better meet the needs of our special education students as well as all of our students at the elementary level.

(For further information regarding this meeting, please see the North Shore Board of Education Minutes for December 18, 2008 at www.northshoreschools.org. Complete BOE Minutes are available in the Central Office.)