

**Independent School District 318**  
**Together, teaching and learning for life . . . to achieve excellence**  
**Strategic Aims: Highest Student Achievement, Safe Environment,**  
**Effective and Efficient Systems, Partnerships**

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**District Shared Decisions Council Minutes, Monday, December 13, 2004**

Members Present: Harvey Hietala, Angie Anderson, Betty Brandt, Kathy Selmsler, Sue Mattson, Amy Keranan, Bonnie Johnson, Bill Baltus and Sue Hoeft

Meeting was called to order by Bill Baltus.

The minutes were reviewed and a correction was made to clarify the Minnesota budget section of the minutes. A video featuring John Gunyou and Jay Kiedrowski, former state finance commissioners, gave the following information on the state's financial status. Bonnie Johnson moved to approve the amended minutes. Motion carried.

**Site Reports:**

**Grand Rapids High School:** Their November meeting focused on restructuring the newly reorganized site council. The committee has 12 members and will meet once a month. Several high school subcommittees do much of the planning in addressing building goals.

**Robert J. Elkington Middle School:** The members of the site council that attended the team training at Rutters provided an inservice for the rest of the council. Conferences this year were held in classrooms. Time and the wait parents had will be addressed. The building's technology plan was reviewed and dollars need to be secured to finish addressing computer needs.

**Cohasset** has been focusing on their building goals and following their action plan. The PTC president is also a member of the site council which provides good communication between staff and parents. Accelerated Reader is being implemented throughout the building.

**Forest Lake:** The site council is following their SMART goals and monitoring their progress at meeting the goals. The staff is also considering becoming a title schoolwide program as their free and reduced lunch count, which is above 40%, makes them eligible to write a schoolwide plan.

**Area Learning Center:** The staff meets on a weekly basis. An open house was conducted for parents and students. Presently they are providing two online courses. They are continuing to provide night school in math for seniors that have not passed the Basic Skills Tests (BST).

**Early Childhood:** At their November meeting, the monthly meeting format was restructured. There will be two meetings a month with one a site council meeting. They reviewed their goals and will focus on their action plan to meet the goals. Sue Hoeft announced a \$1.5 million dollar grant has been awarded by the Blandin Foundation to the Itasca County Early Childhood collaborative. The attached page indicates the main focus for this grant.

**Murphy:** The site council felt the site team training at Rutgers was extremely beneficial. The team revised their goals and developed a very workable action plan.

**School Board:** The superintendent search is underway. The position is posted through January 28. An online survey to build a superintendent profile is being conducted for staff and community. There will be a need in the near future to go to the voters to ask for an operating levy. We need to communicate the sense of need. A suggestion was made by Sue Hoeft to look at ways Community Education could help market and keep our staff in the loop. As district staff, it is critical we are supportive and informed.

**Blandin Foundation Site Team Training:** Feedback from the training was extremely worthwhile and valuable. The buildings now have SMART goals and an action plan. Our arrows are all in a row. We are working smarter, not harder, because there is clarity and focus. Communication in buildings has improved. It was one of the best, most practical workshops we've had with site training.

Bill Baltus will be unable to attend our meetings for the remainder of the year. He suggested we need to consider a new community member.

**Our January 10, 2005 has been cancelled.**

Next Meeting:

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting date is Monday, **February 14**, at **7:45 a.m.**, in the **Administrative Services Boardroom.**

**Agenda items include:**

- new community member(s). How do we recruit?
- superintendent search survey results
- review and update site council goals. Do we need an action plan?
- Our School's Report Card survey results

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mattson  
Assistant Superintendent

Attachment: Invest Early Program