**Linden STEAM Academy**

**Attendees:**  Linda Bell, Diana Buonopane, Richard Bransfield, Kathleen Cutting, Laura Degelmann, Deborah Gesualdo, Rachana Gray, Melissa Lightbody, Linda Patrie, Ann Schiro, Susan Terban, Franklin Shearer, Leonard Young

Governing Board Meeting

October 17, 2013 7:00 AM Linden Library

**Agenda**

IPublic Comment/Connections

* Rachana Gray commented on Richard Bransfield’s monthly newsletters. She said it was exactly what the parents were looking for. A summary of all the great things going on in the school. She suggested the next step would be giving the summary to the local media so the rest of Malden can see the great things happening here.
* Ann Schiro mentioned an accessibility video that is available through her workplace. She feels it will be good to show to the students. She will look into getting a copy.
* Leonard Young said the book faire looks awesome. He is impressed with the lobby and how welcoming it looks. He is also taking the 3rd grade to the Rumney Marsh for water testing.

**II** Acceptance of Minutes 9/25/13

* Deborah Gesualdo made a motion to accept the minutes
* Ann Schiro seconded the motion
* The minutes were accepted
* Leonard made a motion to accept the changes
* Ann seconded the motion
* The updates to the minutes passed

**III** Principal’s Report

* Richard Bransfield said the amount of work that teachers are doing makes it feel like it is already June.
* Stress is high due to all the initiatives that we need to implement.
* One such initiative is NAEYC accreditation for kindergarten. They want to change how the classroom looks. It would be taking a step backwards. We get major funding from them. They fund the paraprofessionals. The required changes would make it look more like a pre-school than kindergarten. They want more play time and sensory time etc. Our accreditation is up in January. Richard Bransfield is meeting with them ahead of time to discuss what we can do.
* We are continuing to look at Know Atom. At our elementary level, the teachers are looking for science curriculum. We need to take our time since we don’t need more initiatives especially if we are going to replace something with common core in the near future.
* Mass 20/20 is looking at how we use our current time. They used to be about extended learning time. Now they are shifting their focus on how the time is being used. How long are the kids at lockers etc. They can help with scheduling. If we send out something that deals with extended learning time the staff will be in flux again. We need to plan and think before we release anything.
* Kathleen Cutting asked if they charge us for their services. Richard Bransfield said no, there are grants. They work with the DEA.

**IV** Old Business

Reponses from email dated 9/26 re: Innovation Proposals

* Susan Terban asked if anyone was interested in meeting with Know Atom. They have scheduled time to observer them in Lynn. Grade 5 is 1pm on Thursdays. Grade 4 is 9am on Mondays. Grade 3 is 10am on Tuesdays. They don’t provide for 1st and 2nd grade.
* Looks like we can get funding for Know Atom, but they require that their curriculum is followed completely. We would need vex kits.
* First Grade is looking for science curriculum and Know Atom won’t be able to help. Some think we should find something that will cover everyone. Especially if the funding for Know Atom runs out, we are back where we started.
* Laura Degelman said they are waiting for science standards to come out.
* Mr Hansen said Know Atom would thoroughly replace our science curriculum.
* Jill experienced Know Atom when she was in Lynn. She says the kids are extremely engaged. They were each given roles and it included team building. It works on progression. Teachers went to meetings once or twice a month. It is a lot of effort but the results are phenomenal. There is a lot of support and it takes an effort. Some experiments were lengthy. They stressed that nothing happens quickly. The results for MCAS showed 2 or 3 years down the line. Lynn has had it for 3 or4 years. They had a grant but lost the grant and so are now will have to stop doing it.
* Susan Terban said K – 2 are lost with no direction for science. They need more professional development and more kits mean more to learn.
* Kathleen Cutting said we need a commitment for K-8
* Susan Terban said we could get funding but that the district will need to fund part of it as well. She also said we need to get our 501 status to help get more funding.
* There are lots of unanswered questions. How do you tell our teachers they now need to change what they teach?. How can they say they (Know Atom) are aligned if the common core curriculum isn’t signed off yet? Diane Perito says we are ahead of ourselves.
* Ann Schiro asked do the teachers meet across grades per subject meet to discuss the subject? The answer was no. Only on a professional development day or half day.
* Mass 2020 – Franklin Shearer said that they offer tech assistance but do not run the program.
* Kathleen Cutting ask if we anyone wanted to meet with Cairn hill? It is Art program. They are coming on Tuesday 22nd at 9:15am in Kathleen Cutting’s room. They worked with the Salemwood School. Salemwood stopped using them because they had issues with afterschool program. They offer visual art and drama, storytelling, puppetry, healthy snacks, and homework club.
* YWCA came to the Salemwood too with a $1k stipend

**V** New Business

Next steps for Proposals – Will be discussed next time

**VI** Board Members’ Comments – postponed until next time.

**VII** Adjournment

* Deborah Gesualdo made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
* Kathleen Cutting seconded the motion.