

# **MINUTES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 13, 2011**

The Middle School Advisory Council Meeting was held June 13, 2011, at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. by Dr. Winifred Hamilton, Deputy Superintendent.

Dr. Judith Singer, Director of Research, presented an update of Middle School Transformation Year 2, which included third quarter course marks of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as data on students who had advanced from CP to honors as a result of regrouping. Council members studied the data in groups and were then asked to comment. Following this discussion there was some dialogue regarding the challenge of assessing students and the various factors to be considered. Dr. Starr noted that a high school grading committee is working on formalizing a system.

Mona Hanna, Chief Academic Officer, discussed:

- Changes that will be included in the MS Reference Guide for the upcoming school year.
- District policy that enables 8<sup>th</sup> graders to take high school level Algebra I for high school credit.
- The criteria that give 7<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to enroll in Algebra I for the school year 2011-12. Selection of the students will be based on the CMT and on the Orleans-Hanna Prognostic Algebra Test. 7<sup>th</sup> graders who qualify will have the opportunity to enroll in Algebra classes with 8<sup>th</sup> graders or in online classes for Algebra I.

The availability for enrollment in online courses in middle schools was discussed. Currently, students at AITE and Scofield participate in online enrichment courses.

Next steps: end-of-year data will be analyzed to determine students who qualify for advanced course placement. The Middle School Reference Guide is being updated and will be mailed to all families in August.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.