



# *Thoreau Elementary School*

[29 Prairie Street Concord, MA 01742](#) - [Thoreau Elementary School - 978-318-1300](#)

*Justin M Sparks*

*Principal*



**School Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday November 15th**  
**2:00-3:00pm**  
**Principal's Office**

**Members in Attendance:** Justin Sparks, Kara Barr, Colleen Bixby, Liz Morrison-Howe, Lorie Ogilvie, Joyce Carter, Julie Basler, Johanna Ellis, Ben Xia

- 1). Call to Order - 8:05 AM
- 2). Approval of Minutes - Reviewed and approved
- 3). Celebrations - Principal Sparks shared the Youtube video of our student council presenting at the last School Committee meeting. The team agreed that each 5th grader presented confidently and represented our school well. This has been a positive addition to the school community.
- 5). Principal's Report
  - Conferences were well attended, with most at or above 90% participation across the school. Teachers have a few parents here and there to connect with as we work to partner and share student growth.
  - The Open Table food drive is ongoing, with banana boxes already filled in many classrooms. Colleen and Julie have been critical in facilitating this valuable project.
  - Our Boosterthon Fun Run is scheduled for 2/6, which will be a "glow run" in the cafeteria. Our target goal is 10K but we should exceed expectations. The Boosterthon organization does the bulk of the work, attending lunches and doing work around character education.
  - Our Henry Husky mascot costume was ordered and should be arriving in December.
  - The Turkey Trot will take place next week and is a beloved TES tradition. Mr. Sparks will send more information out in the coming days. Everyone has been informed of the school spirit days Mon-Wed.
  - Our Freckle rep visited TES yesterday for office hours with staff. He brought Renaissance merchandise for all participants. There were close to 20 staff members who joined Sean. Everyone seems enthusiastic about usage.
  - The draft MCAS schedule was shared out.
  - The regular monthly PTG meeting will take place this Friday.
- 6). Grade Level Updates

- The 4th grade field trip was successful and got rave reviews from the students.
- Kindergarteners are progressing well academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Ms. Basler updated the committee on Freckle and math instruction.

7). Administrative Items

8). SIP Update

- The staff wellness committee should be formed by December. This was written into the SIP last year.
- MTSS groups are up and running.
- Responsive Classroom audit was completed and implementation has been strong across the school.

9). PTG Update

- The staff luncheon was well received by staff.
- Regular PTG meeting is this Friday.

10). Member items

11). Adjournment - 8:50 am