



## **Parent Advisory Committee Minutes September 22, 2011**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

**In Attendance:** George Samuelson, *Clearview*; Jen Woolley and Heather Raneri, *Farmersville*; Steve Caskie, *Fountain Hill*; Victor and Luann Quarato, *Governor Wolf*; Robin Anthony and Cindy Lancaster, *Hanover*; Pete Mayes, *James Buchanan*; Karen Gomez (Principal), *Marvine*; Marie Brown, *Miller Heights*; Elizabeth Jones and Melissa Sonnenblink, *Spring Garden*; Dea Chunko, *Thomas Jefferson*; Maria Regini, *William Penn*; Megan Evans Gartley and Angela Sinkler, *Broughal*; Ed and Karen Boksan, *East Hills*; David Amidon, Laura Kuehner, Julie Shaw and Beth Reinert, *Nitschmann*; Becky Darrell and Judith Sheriff, *Northeast*; Lauren Brennan, *Freedom*; Mark Harris, *Liberty*; Dr. Jack Silva and Dr. Joseph Roy.

**New Business:** Ed Boksan (Committee Chair) brought forth the idea of having representatives from the high school and middle schools increase in number to better represent the larger size of those schools. It was decided that Liberty and Freedom would increase to four representatives each, Broughal, East Hills, Nitschmann and Northeast would increase to three representatives each and the elementary schools would remain at two representatives per school. Julie Shaw volunteered to become a rep for Liberty so that Beth Reinert could represent Nitschmann.

**Minutes were approved.**

### **Review of Spring 2011 Survey Results**

Dr. Silva discussed the surveys that PAC previewed last spring before they were given to students, faculty and parents. We were divided into groups by the level of school our oldest child attended. Each member of the group was given copies of the results from that particular school level. Each group was charged with examining the results and finding two to three items that stood out. After some time, the groups came back together to share their results with the larger group.

Elementary School Group:

1. College expectations were inconsistent (parent expectations were high, teachers and students were low)
2. There was a drop off in % of students feeling that school is fun between primary and intermediate levels
3. Technology use drops in popularity as students get older.
4. School is a welcoming environment

**Middle School Group:**

1. Disconnect between teachers and parents/students views in academics and respect/value questions. Teachers indicated lower opinion/expectations.
2. High percentage of students felt they could be challenged more than both teachers and parents

**High School Group:**

1. Low expectations by teachers
2. Study skills low by students
3. Students feel there is at least one adult they can go to

Dr. Silva stated that in the past, school improvement was based on test results. Now, we can start using survey results for school improvement. It was recommended that the survey results be taken back to the parent groups at each school. The results were also given to the principals at each school and the results were reviewed with the faculty early in the school year.

**Possible topics for the upcoming meetings**

1. Computer/website use
2. College/career/military preparedness at the end of schooling
3. Parent engagement
4. Improving study skills and effectiveness of homework
5. Review of school improvement plans
6. Reasons for disconnect between teacher and student/parent values and expectations

**Next Meeting Topics:**

- Parent Engagement
- Redesign of the District website

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Submitted by Megan Evans Gartley, Broughal Middle School PAC Representative