



Parent Advisory Committee Minutes October 13, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

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.

Minutes were approved.

Redesign of the District website

Minutes for this lively 40 minute session were taken by Marie Bachmann.

Feedback topics:

1. What do you use the BASD web site to do?
2. In terms of content and organization, what are some things on the district web site that are done well that should continue?
3. In terms of content and organization, what are some things you would like to see done differently on the revised web site?

Guiding questions:

- Can you easily find what you need?
- Are the things you consider important visible enough?
- Is the content easily understood?
- Is it engaging – does finding something make you want to learn more?

Parent engagement

This wide-ranging discussion lasted about 40 minutes and included both recommendations that can be acted upon, and topics for further exploration.

Leverage the email groups collected via the District website for communicating with parents by directing email through the school principal.

Forum for parent feedback on the web site? Did not generate much

enthusiasm. May be worth further exploration.
Post volunteer opportunities to serve each school.
More meetings between parents and teachers. Need less pressured structure than parent/teacher night. Get to know each other.
Set expectations for both parents and teachers about how to communicate with each other during the year. Post a policy on website and on walls. Discuss during orientation/open house.
Teacher assigned "Parent homework" requesting info about students. Very effective. The teacher also provided some personal information.
PTA on building website. Parent participation is dropping at some schools. Put flyers on website. Community and school flyers. Use a "Community folder" to update parents. Understood that this is not as simple as it sounds since it involves communication with a wide variety of community groups, and changes long-standing practice. May need to be phased in gradually, and have flexible application. Some community flyers are urgent/time sensitive.
Explore using building websites to post availability of community groups such as baseball leagues.
How should we gather feedback for PAC? Done building by building now, with different plans and varying levels of success.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

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:

Ed Boksan(Committee Chair) volunteered to discuss agenda items for the next meeting with Dr. Roy.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by David Amidon, Nitschmann Middle School PAC Representative