



Parent Advisory Committee Minutes

November 17, 2011

Opening:

The regular meeting of the PAC was called to order at 7:01pm on 11/17/2011

Present:

Sherri Marino, *Asa Packer*; Migdalia DeJesus, *Donegan*; Heather Raneri, *Farmersville*; Tracy Prostko, *Governor Wolf*; Robin Anthony and Cindy Lancaster, *Hanover*; Rena White, *Lincoln*; Marie Brown, *Miller Heights*; Melissa Sonnenblick, *Spring Garden*; Diana Carrillo and George Oscavich, *Thomas Jefferson*; Megan Evans Gartley and Angela Sinkler, *Broughal*; Ed Boksan, *East Hills*; David Amidon, Laura Kuehner and Beth Reinert, *Nitschmann*; Becky Darrell and Alita DeAngelis, *Northeast*; Judy Parr, Michael Bouchier and Luis Mercado, *Freedom*; Julie Shaw, Gina Scala and Carol Todaro, *Liberty*; Karen Gomez, *Principal – Marvine*; Dr. Joseph Roy and Dr. Jack Silva.

Greetings, Introductions & Announcements

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed. Several attendees were missing or listed incorrectly. Ed Boksan will review and correct.

Reasons for disconnect between teacher and parent/student values and expectations (School Improvement Survey)

A review of the Parent survey was conducted. One question in particular that was discussed was “I Plan to go to college”. The teachers had lower percentage than parents/students. Dr. Roy commented that he feels TESA (Teacher Expectations & Student Achievement) was one factor in the results. Comments:

Who’s responding – skews the results

Schools are using the results in their Improvement Planning

25% of Liberty Students and 29% of Freedom students enroll at Northampton County Community College after graduation.

Dr Roy and Dr. Silva feel that teacher’s responses are more accurate on who goes to college.

Dr Silva worked with Northampton Community College to make sure graduation requirements are in relation to their entrance requirements

Dr. Roy’s goal is to improve the path to college for BASD students. He’s been working closely with local colleges.

Lehigh University is having a “spend a day in the life of a Lehigh Student” *comments were made that opportunities like these need to be better advertised. Not all students and parents are aware they exist.*

Moravian College – “Cops For Kids” book drive at Governor Wolf.

Dr. Roy mentioned at this time they are proposing to the school board for a Guidance Chair Person in the high schools. This position would facilitate Strategic planning, establish goals, improve communication and bring organization to the department. *A parent recommended there be a link to the guidance departments on the web.*

Another project that Dr. Roy is working on is a “Buffet” of courses at Vo-Tech for incoming 9th graders. He is working on keeping these kids on track and increasing Vo-Tech’s enrollment.

The School improvement survey will be repeated this year. It will be close to the current questions so that they can compare results. School improvement teams are in place to review the results.

It was asked if the results are available by individual school. Yes and by elementary, middle and high school levels. Dr. Roy has no issue with parents seeing the results, but some results might need an explanation and this is why some schools might not have sent home the results but presented them at Open house.

Budget Process Discussion

A preliminary budget for the 2012-2013 school years must be submitted in January 2012 and must be approved by June of 2012.

Dr Roy is not expecting to get fewer funds from the state, but he does not expect an increase. Expenses do expect to increase. The budget gap is expected to be smaller next year because we avoided a lot of loss funds this year.

Dr. Sylva handed out a survey to attendees and asked them to prioritize school district assets. There were 10 assets listed. We had to apportion a total of 100 points to the items, and all items had to receive at least 1 point and no one item could receive more than 50 points.

The results among the parents were split, but not one item received more than 35 points. The results of the survey will be available at the January 2012 PAC meeting.

New Business

A parent asked for an explanation on why the 5th grade all city band concert was cancelled.

Dr. Roy and Dr. Sylva responded that the concert was originally cancelled because of budget cuts. Elementary principals wanted to save programs that allowed for the greatest amount of opportunities for all students. Another meeting was held this morning by the elementary principals. It was determined that regardless of funding the event cannot be rescheduled. Some schools have already scheduled other events on that day. Dr. Roy wanted to make sure the parents understood that none of the music programs throughout the district were cut due to budget restrictions. The only thing they cut was the 5th grade all city band concert from music programs.

A parent asked about a recent issue with a school district bus driver. All that Dr. Roy could say was the person is no longer employed by the district.

A parent recommended that if there are issues at the school, that the district should inform the parents so they can sit down and discuss the issue with their child. They understand that certain things are covered under confidentiality laws, but that parents should be told of some issues so they can explain things to their children.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm

Minutes submitted by:

Rebecca M. Darrell