

Parent Advisory Council Meeting
October 10, 2008

Present: Gordon Barbour Elementary School – Corrine McKay
Lightfoot Elementary School – Jenny Jarman
Locust Grove Elementary School – Lana Marr
Locust Grove Middle School – Deborah Harvey
Orange County High School – Traci Fowler
Orange Elementary School – Sabrina May and Sherri Page
Prospect Heights Middle School – Susie Swope
Unionville Elementary School – Penny Green for Christi Macedo

Absent: Head Start – Stephanie Parks

Also Present: William Crawford, Superintendent of Schools
Pam Shifflett, Executive Administrative Assistant

Introductions The meeting began with each member introducing themselves and the schools that they represent.

Purpose Dr. Crawford thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the Parent Advisory Council, whose function is to serve as ambassadors by communicating school related issues to the superintendent and to disseminate district wide initiatives to the community. Dr. Crawford noted that this was not the forum for discussing personnel issues, which should be handled in private.

Major Initiatives:

Online Documents In an effort to reduce the cost of printing fees and provide timely information to parents, schools will be posting school related information (i.e.: Parent Handbooks, Student Code of Conduct, newsletters, etc.) on their websites. For the current school year, hard copies of documents will continue to be sent home to parents. The goal is to get parents to sign up to view documents online and eventually use the website as the primary vehicle for distributing information to parents.

Title 1 – Parent Policy The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) regulations require school divisions to review its Parental Involvement Policy on an annual basis. Chuck Winkler, Director of Elementary Education, presented copies of the proposed Parent Involvement Policy for review and discussion. Questions regarding the policy should be emailed to Mr. Winkler at cwinkler@ocss-va.org. The policy will be presented to the School Board next month for review and approval.

AYP/Accreditation All schools are fully accredited, which means that each school met the benchmark requirements in all four core areas (math, language arts, science, and social sciences). Locust Grove Middle School and Prospect Heights Middle School improved their scores and moved from Accredited with Warning in the area of math to full accreditation.

Locust Grove Elementary School is the only school that met Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is measured in seven different subgroups which are: all students, black students, Hispanic students, limited English proficient students, students identified as disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and white students. Schools are held accountable for each subgroup's participation and performance in reading, math, and one other academic indicator, for a total of 29 benchmarks. If one of the subgroups does not meet the benchmark in any of the performance areas, the school does not meet AYP. Most schools missed the benchmark

in one subgroup by a couple of students. Dr. Crawford noted that AYP is an all or none assessment and is not a true reflection of a school's performance and growth.

New Middle School Construction Update Henry Miller has been hired as the Project Manager to oversee the new middle school construction project. The project should be ready for bid in the next week or so and potential bidders are going through the pre-qualification process. A ground breaking ceremony is planned for late December. Updates on the construction process are posted on the division's website at www.ocss-va.org. In response to questions regarding boundary adjustments, Dr. Crawford noted that a slight adjustment may need to occur, but it should not have a significant impact.

Superintendent's Annual Report The Superintendent's Annual Report, which is overall summary of the division, including academic performance and operations, is being finalized and should be ready for presentation at the next Parent Advisory Council meeting.

Budget Process Preparations for the 2009-2010 school budget will begin in December. It is anticipated that the priorities from the 2008-09 budget will remain the same and that increasing teacher's salaries will be the top priority. The Governor has announced that budget cuts for the current fiscal year will not affect education; however, cuts will be made to the 09-10 education budget. Orange County Public Schools is preparing for reduced funding and is looking for efficiencies in operations. Bus routes were recently revised to cut 900 miles per day, which equates to approximately \$2,700 per day in fuel costs. Other possible efficiencies include delaying the start time of A/C and/or heat by one hour and turning it off an hour earlier at the end of the day.

Open Items:

School Lunches Ms. Jarman reported that a focus group was forming at LES to explore the benefits of High Brix foods, which are grown without chemicals, including organic chemicals. Early studies indicate that a High Brix diet may reduce behavioral issues and increase performance and attention spans. Dr. Crawford noted that the division's Health Advisory Council has discussed this and is seeking more information.

In response to a question regarding outsourcing cafeteria management, Dr. Crawford advised that the food services program, which was a financial burden when operated by the division, is saving the district money under the operation of Jack Noonan, Sodexo.

Hiring of Substitutes Dr. Crawford explained that during the summer months the focus for the Human Resources Department is to hire fully qualified teachers, to implement mentor programs, and to ensure that licensure requirements have been met. Now that school is underway, the Human Resources Department has started scheduling interviews for substitutes and plans are underway to conduct a training seminar for new substitutes soon. Questions regarding interviews should be directed to Roy Walton, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources and Operations.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.