

**Fifth District Elementary
School Improvement Team Meeting (SIT)
September 16, 2008**

At this meeting the new members of the team were introduced and a note-taker was assigned. The purpose of the meeting was to review the spring 2008 Climate Survey, discuss the focus for the 2008-2009 Fund for Excellence and to discuss new issues that have been raised by teachers or parents since the beginning of this school year. In October, the additions to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) will be shared with the parent members after the plan is approved by the Area Superintendent. Information discussed is as follows:

2008 CLIMATE SURVEY

Areas to Celebrate

Overall the responses were favorable for each of the 23 questions. Parents rated the questions in the 90th percentile for agree, with the exceptions of numbers 7 (communication) and 10 (technology), which were at 85% agreement. The team discussed the format of these questions and agreed that in the future, these topics will be addressed with more specific questions. The questions in the future will be more specific.

Areas to Consider for Improvement

Question number 7 was, “I am satisfied with the frequency of communication coming from the school concerning my child’s progress.”

Currently, teachers call parents and use electronic mail (e-mail). The team discussed ways to improve communications. It was agreed that the newsletter would be used to highlight the ways that parents receive information from the different grade level teachers, which the teachers consider as communications but the parents may not. Teachers agreed that they welcomed emails from parents whenever they had a concern or a question. To encourage that, teacher emails will be posted in the next newsletter.

Question number 10 was, “I am satisfied with the level of technology instruction my child is receiving at our school.”

Questions were raised about the technology program, how it functions, and the learning opportunities offered to the students. Mrs. Roxanne Dean, technology integration teacher, will publish a quarterly technology report in the newsletter to educate parents about the program – being proactive and anticipating questions. It was also agreed that parents may consider the only source of technology to be the bi-monthly visits each class has to the lab with the Mrs. Dean. There are many more uses of technology in the school every day. Again, the newsletter will be used to highlight activities classes are doing with technology.

The standards/requirements for the “No Child Left Behind Program” (NCLB) were discussed. Generally, the survey indicated that most parents do not understand the program and how it relates to Fifth District, the different grade levels and their child. Mrs. Quental will continue to provide information about the NCLB program in the newsletter.

NEW ISSUES

There was a parent concern about the elimination of the cafeteria stoplight system and the silver spoon program, which was brought to the SIT members' attention. It was explained that both items were eliminated because they had not been effective in reducing the noise level in the cafeteria. The classroom teachers noted that it was very difficult for the previous AP to get the awards for silver spoons out in a timely manner due to his numerous responsibilities, which resulted in the students losing interest in them. Currently, if the noise level gets too high, Mr. Quinn will flash the lights on and off as a signal to the students to speak quietly, which has been an effective method. As the year progresses, the need for anything additional will be considered.

FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

Last year \$10,000 was raised for the Fund for Excellence which was funded by voluntary parent contributions. The technology team will meet on September 29, 2008 to discuss the technology needs and the use of those funds. It is very difficult to keep up with the changes in technology and the money was held to assure that it would be used to fund the most current needs. Due to overall economic conditions, this year's goal will be \$5000. Members of SIT are invited to attend the tech meeting on September 29 at 2:00.

The fund was also used to pay trained reading support tutors. At this time, we have one highly trained tutor working 200 to 300 hours per year. The school goal is to have a reading tutor up to three hours per day. Money from the school's operating budget is used for 100 hours of parent tutoring and the rest has to be raised via contributions. The Fund for Excellence paperwork will be sent out on September 25 and parents will have the opportunity to designate where their contribution should be utilized.

Mr. Price, vocal music teacher, received donations from a fraternity at Towson University this year dedicated to purchasing musical instruments for our school.