

**Fifth District Elementary
School Improvement Team
September 20, 2007**

School Improvement Plan

School Improvement Team met to review the School Improvement Plan for 2007-2009

Carole Quental introduced the representatives for each of the Action Teams:

Reading—Jamie Connolly,
Math—Byrdie Ricketts
Home/School Action (Safety) – BJ Gill

Along with all our students, there are two additional sub groups targeted by MSA for measuring the Adequate Yearly Progress of Fifth District: children receiving special education services and children receiving free and reduced lunches. The Team discussed current goals at the national, state, and school level. Under *No Child Left Behind*, national performance goals in Reading and Math are to reach 100% of the students performing at proficient or above by the year 2014. Fifth District's goals were based on improving last year's performance and working toward that federal target. The school plan focused on the indicators of the *Blueprint for Progress* that guide all instruction in our schools. The team examined the goals on our plan and the activities that were planned to support progress with them. Goals are written to address reading and math progress and programs, the connection and communication between the school and the homes, school safety, and attendance. Mrs. Quental noted that the national goal for school attendance is 94%, and Fifth District's attendance rate is currently over 96%.

Home School Connection

The Team discussed ways to improve communication between the school and the home. The School Climate Surveys will be sent to parents in April of each year. Other ways in which the school will communicate with parents are the school newsletter, the school website, and the ConnectEd Telephone System. In addition, teachers will hold at least one conference per year with the parents of each student.

The Team also discussed ways to improve parent participation at events such as Back to School Night and American Education Week. The goal is to improve parent participation from an estimated rate of 65% to 85%.

Fund for Excellence

Next week marks the start of this year's campaign for the Fund for Excellence, a voluntary donation program to raise money for new technology and tutoring programs. The Team suggested that a specific goal be set, and that a visual chart be placed in a

prominent place in the school to chart progress. This will ideally be done by Grandparent's Day/Anniversary Weekend, to communicate this goal to all the visitors.

Parent Suggestions/Concern

A parent has suggested that the newsletter be sent via email, to save paper and make it easier for parents to read. The Team expressed concern that not all parents are comfortable using email. Ms. Quental is going to survey the parents in an upcoming newsletter on this issue.

A parent had a question about "lockdown" drills. The school has a lockdown procedure in place in case of emergency, and holds two drills per year. The specifics of the drills are not available to the public, as that would lessen the efficacy of the procedure. However, Ms. Quental will explain the purpose of all the school safety drills in the next newsletter.

A parent had a concern that the gym doors were being kept propped open to keep the gym cool. Ms. Quental explained that the gym doors were kept open one day because maintenance was using chemicals to get rid of a bees' nest. In the future, all doors will be kept locked at all times, as the air from that one small door does little to cool that large area.

A parent had a concern about parents picking up children in front of the school without signing those children out. Ms. Quental will be reviewing the rules in a future newsletter.

A parent had a concern about the need for a long-term substitute in one of the classes later in the year. Any long term substitute will be a certified teacher and will possess a teaching degree. The permanent professional staff of the school will make any decisions about the placement of students during the time that the substitute is in place.