

**Fifth District Elementary  
School Improvement Meeting  
September 21, 2009**

The School Improvement Team Meeting (SIT) was held on September 21, 2009.

Mrs. Quental began the meeting by reviewing the agenda. Information discussed during the meeting was as follows:

1. The team members were introduced. Mrs. Elizabeth Gamble is a new parent joining the SIT team this year.
2. The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is due to the superintendent by September 24, 2009. The SIT team member participants were asked to sign indicating their membership on the school team. The final version of the SIP plan will be discussed at the October SIT meeting.
3. An updated copy of the Baltimore County Blue Print for Progress was given to the team.
4. The focus of this year's Fund for Excellence was discussed. The team agreed that the fund will continue to go toward technology enhancement and funding the first grade tutor position. The school budget allotted fifty hours for the tutor, who has been with the school for years and also volunteers. Mrs. Dean will provide information on what was purchased through the technology fund last year in an upcoming newsletter, noting costs and how the equipment is used. She said last year's purchases from the technology fund include: the installation of four of the five Smart boards that were donated to the school; projectors with screens, carts to lock up the projectors and a laptop. A request for Fund for Excellence donations will be sent to parents around mid-October. Friendly Farm Night dinner is October 19, 2009 and Friendly Farm will again this year give the school 20% of the total sales, which will go to the Fund for Excellence. Last year's contribution was about \$1,200.
5. The Crossroads 5K Family Fun Run/Walk will be held on October 31, 2009. A brochure for the run/walk may be picked up outside the school office. Registration on-line is at [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com). Registration proceeds from the race will benefit the Baltimore County Police Athletic League (PAL). Proceeds from the Hereford Zone schools will go to the Johns Hopkins Children's Cancer Center. Mrs. Quental said the Fifth District team, consisting of Mrs. Quental, Mr. Quinn and several teachers, will collect contributions which will go to the Children's Cancer Center. School families are encouraged to donate through the Fifth District team if they are unable to participate in this event. Dates for the children to bring in their contributions will be announced. Corporation matching funds are also another avenue parents may pursue. Mrs. Quental noted that the State Superintendent of Schools had a meeting with the Hereford Zone school principals, requesting our schools' participation in the race because the Hereford Zone is recognized for its strong community support.
6. Mr. Quinn said the Fifth District electronic community will be up and running in the fall. The format will allow teachers to post schedules, calendars, events, reminders of field trips, etc. The information will be on a secure site. The goal is to provide important information to Fifth District parents, as well as receiving alerts through emails as site pages are updated or revised.

**New Business:**

1. Several parents expressed concerns that school supplies are being requested to be shared with the whole class. Discussion ensued on what the specific concerns may be. Some team members speculated the parents may think the school should provide things such as tissues and bleach wipes, or that some children may waste the supplies, not using them frugally, or some children may have better quality of supplies than others (such as Crayola vs. Roseart) and the supplies such as markers and crayons are tossed into the general bin for all of the children to use. The team decided to continue the discussion at the next SIT meeting, after reviewing the school supply lists and talking with teachers and other parents to get their thoughts about supplies.
2. A parent expressed concern that their child was weighed and measured at school by someone they did not know. Mrs. Quental explained that Mrs. Flanagan has a student nurse helping her this year and will ask her to introduce herself to the children when they come into the nurse's office. Mrs. Quental noted that Mrs. Flanagan has the authority to track the height and weight of some children for various reasons (such as medicine they are taking), and in order not to single out the child, the whole class is weighed and height measured. Mrs. Flanagan will have a "Nurses Corner" in an upcoming newsletter providing general information about what student information is gathered. Certainly, parents with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact Mrs. Flanagan at 410-887-1533.