

Fifth District Elementary
School Improvement Team Meeting
October 9, 2006

The people attending this meeting were: Penny Wilson, Paul Balsamo, Carole Quental, Karen Danmyer, Mary Boegner, Kitty Flanagan, Jamie Connolly, Mark DiPaula, BJ Gill, Lynn Wisner, Lisa DiNenna, Kathy Rus, Dawn Elliott, Brenda Benson, and Donna Franco.

Members from the school action teams reported on their revisions to the School Improvement Plan.

- Reading & Social Studies—Karen Danmyer reported that this team has revised the reading portions of the plan. They removed items in the Voluntary State and Essential Curricula that are a part of the regular, core programs for all students and added in aspects of the new writing program and more specifics about interventions.
- Math & Science—Mark DiPaula reported that the teachers are implementing the new math program, and trying to utilize the many new teaching materials provided. New initiatives to the School Improvement Plan include a technology link. Plans for a Primary Math Night are in the works.
- Home School/Safety—BJ Gill and Kitty Flanagan reported that all teachers have their emergency plans in place. The phone tree is almost complete. School safety plan has already been approved by the County. The goal in the SIP had been previously updated by the SIT at the end of last year.

The next topic discussed was the spring 2006 Climate Survey. Three areas were noted where there was a slight decline in satisfaction. They were: Parents satisfied with frequency of communication, parents aware of purpose and function of S.I.T., and parents aware of impact of NCLB. As these were discussed by the SIT the following suggestions emerged:

- Suggestions to improve communication. Mrs. Quental will use the community newsletter to share ways that the teachers are communicating with their parents and will stress that parents can meet with all their child's teachers at conferences.
- It was also suggested that definitions of S.I.T. and NCLB be put in the newsletter. It was decided that Mrs. Quental will explain a different aspect or fact about these programs at least once a month in the community newsletter.

The team also discussed the format of the climate survey. After a long discussion, it was decided to use fill-in bubble sheets for the next climate survey in order to enable the data to be returned to the school in a timelier manner. It was recognized that some specificity regarding satisfaction with individual grade level classes would be lost by using this method, but it was noted that parents would still be able to make comments and that the accompanying letter would encourage them to do so.

The new librarian, Jamie Connolly, presented a Birthday Book Program. This would allow parents to donate \$10.00 to buy a book for the library in honor of their child's birthday. The child or the parent could pick a book from an appropriate list, and a book plate would be put in that book with the child's name. The members supported the initiation of this program

There were several parental concerns brought to the team's discussion. There was a question about the sprinkler system's functioning. Mrs. Quental explained the cause of the delay relating to several problems that had occurred and the matter is in litigation. There was also a question about whether or not school or county rules prohibited dogs from using the fields where children have recreation activities after school. Mrs. Quental checked out this matter and reported that there is no county rule prohibiting dogs from being on the fields after school hours, but the county requires that owners clean up after these dogs.

There was a discussion regarding classroom locks, and how these were to be used in the event of an emergency, especially if there is a substitute or volunteer in the room. Mrs. Quental will work with her office staff to address this matter.

There was a discussion regarding the school security entry system. Currently, all visitors are to announce themselves to office personnel, who then "buzz" those people in or send a representative to the door. All visitors must first go to the office before proceeding into the rest of the building. A problem is when parents leaving the building or standing in the lobby let other people in without going through this procedure. Mrs. Quental is to address this matter in the next newsletter.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2006 at 3:45.