

ACOS

Meeting Notes: January 16th, 2013

Meeting began at 9:55 am on January 16th, 2013, in the Quest portable at Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Present:

Maureen, Trina, Joanne, Tracy, Janet, Shannon, Beckie, Rebecca, Jude and Jen

Topics:

- New ACOS Members
 - Maureen introduced new parent group members and summarized the purpose/history of ACOS.
- ACOS Website Overview (Smart Board)
 - Went through the ACOS website and explained the content of each page.
- Future Events
 - Not planning a third Parent Academy, but may put on some type of evening event for Quest parents.
- Differentiation
 - Discussed the status of differentiated instruction within the school district.
- Gifted Education Funding
 - Discussed how gifted education is funded by the state and supplemented by the SKSD.
- Enrichment Activities/Academic Challenge in the Classroom
 - Discussed the lack of mandates for enrichment in school and what would be involved with parents volunteering to organize and lead enrichment activities.
 - Discussed how ACOS members might appeal to the school district and city leaders to inform about the need to ensure that high-achieving kids are appropriately challenged in our schools.
 - Brain Power Bins
 - Discussed how the bins are currently being used in the schools and brainstormed ways to ensure that the teachers know about them.
 - Scanning and sharing bin activities with other parents via email was also suggested as a possible way to increase awareness among parents that these activities are available at school for their kids
 - Discussed the benefit of having an ACOS representative at each school. Olalla and EPO (and possibly Orchard Heights) still need people.
- Quest Testing
 - Testing has begun; discussed how the word about testing is put out.
- Academic Challenge Issues (General Topics Discussed)
 - Teachers Trained/Required to Provide Special Education Instruction but not Gifted Education Instruction
 - Pros and Cons of Multi-age Classrooms
 - Curriculum Requirements in 4th and 5th Grade
 - ACOS Website Blog for Sharing Experiences/Support
- Gifted Education Day in Olympia (March 19th)
 - Is an opportunity to voice concerns to legislators.

Future Actions Agreed Upon:

- Joanne will set up meeting with school board and inform ACOS members of the date.

Meeting Notes: January 16th, 2013 (page 2)

- ACOS members will meet (if necessary) to plan a presentation for the school board – date will be announced (probably a Wednesday).
- Maureen will meet with Instructional Specialists to inform about the Power Bins.
- Janet will add events to the ACOS website; ACOS members will email relevant articles, videos, etc. to be posted on the ACOS website blog and the ACOS Facebook page.

Next (Regular) Meeting:

February 13th, 10:00 am, in the Quest portable of Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:10 am.

Notes recorded by Janet.