

Parent Group

Meeting Notes: November 16th, 2011

Meeting began at 10:00 am on November 16th, 2011, in the Quest portable at Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Present:

Maureen, Joanne, Tracy, Janet

Topics:

- December 7th Parent Group Meeting
 - Kurt Wagner and Greg Albertson will be there.
 - Joanne will not be able to attend this meeting, but will submit a list of concerns to be presented at the meeting.
 - Discussed the idea of inviting people not currently part of the parent group. It was decided that we should wait until we are more organized as a group. Also, having new people might inhibit the expression of concerns.
- Parent Advocacy Resources
 - Maureen asks Group to search websites for parent advocacy resources.
 - SENG, John Hopkins, and Stanford are great sources of information. Parent Group members need to search these and other sites for information they can reference when advising parents about advocacy and also to post in the "Parent Resources" page of our website.
- Trina's Printed Notes from the WAETAG Conference
 - "Being a Powerful Advocate" by Marcia Holland.
 - "Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted" (SENG).
 - "Gifted Intensities" – resources for dealing with intensity.
 - "Gifted Ed as Basic Ed" – about funding developments concerning highly capable education.
- Discussed Website
 - General approval for the website design.
 - Need to organize sections on Parent Resources page. Gifted section needs to be divided into categories beginning with parent support, with schools/institutions following in a separate section.
 - Maureen expressed concern about the Home page blurb. Believes the language should be toned down to not offend school district personnel. Also should be shortened. Suggested the blurb be rewritten more in the spirit of a mission statement. Suggested the statement be SKSD specific. The current content of the Home page can be included somewhere else on the website.
 - Like the blog - want to keep it in once the site is published.
 - Maureen will monitor/respond to the contact form submissions.
 - Janet asked about including a specific, step-by-step guide for parents to advocate on behalf of their children.
 - Joanne expressed concern about not being able to return to the website after clicking on a link. Links will need to be tagged to open in new windows.
 - Need to create links that will open scanned (pdf) documents.

- Problems with the WAETAG and Prufrock Press links.
- Joanne wondered if it would be appropriate to include links to material supply sites such as “Mindware.” The consensus was that it would be fine to include resources for relevant merchandise, publishers, and suppliers of games such as Cranium.
- Event to Introduce Parent Group
 - Joanne suggested we hold a public event to make the existence of the group known.
 - Doesn’t need to be fancy. It would be an opportunity to talk about resources, websites, and the activity bins, and discuss issues.
 - Could possibly invite a guest speaker (maybe Marcia Holland).
 - Would need to be ready to hold the event sometime in February, before Quest testing, which begins the first Friday in March – the 2nd in 2012.
- Activity Bins
 - Materials were selected and copied for master bins. 2,400 copies needed to start bins. Bins contain selected answer keys and Tracey’s parent letter with the list of websites.
 - Trina has labeled activity bins “Brain Power Bins.”
 - Shannon Thompson and others expressed concern over copyright issues regarding the activities that are being copied from books for the bins.
 - Maureen has written one of the book companies to try and secure permission for using the materials in the bins.
 - Maureen thinks that the language of the copyright is being misinterpreted, and does not pertain to the way they will be used in the bins (as opposed to being used as core curriculum – which would be a violation). She is willing to take responsibility in the improbable event a legal issue pertaining to the usage of the materials should arise.
- Need to Choose a Group name
 - Maureen and Joanne do not have strong opinions regarding the parent group name. Joanne feels that it won’t matter much once people are familiar with our group.
 - Janet likes Tracy’s initial suggestion of PAACS because it is precisely descriptive of who/what the group is.
 - Tracy thinks the name should not contain more than five words and should contain the words “parent” and “advocate.”
- Maureen Shared Four Fundamentals of Creating Parent Groups
 - Choosing a name.
 - Defining the mission.
 - Assigning jobs.
 - Fundraising (discussed the possibilities for future fundraising - including Quest sponsorship – to hire guest speakers).
- Discussed Advertising Parent Group and Quest Testing
 - District mandate to include information in the newsletter.
 - District website.
 - Brochure (would have to be regular paper due to printing expense).
 - Robo-call (to announce Quest testing. If Quest testing expands as a result of successful outreach, it would be expensive. Would consider having volunteers train up and help in certain areas).

- Reach out to those who tested for Quest but did not get selected, perhaps by including a note about the group in the rejection letter.
- The Office of Education Ombudsman (OEO)
 - It is a last resort guide to advocating after exhausting other resources.
 - Include link on Parent Resource page of Group website.
- SKSD's Push for Differentiation
- Quest Testing after 7th Grade
 - Joanne and Maureen discussed the feasibility of Quest testing after 7th grade, alternatives to Quest such as AP and Honor classes, and issues with limited space in the junior high schools' advanced math programs.

Actions During Meeting:

- The group consumed Trina's DELICIOUS scones.

Future Actions Agreed Upon:

- Select a name for the parent group by December 7th.
- Tracy will work on a mission statement for the group.
- Janet will work on website issues and get it ready as possible by December 7th.
- Joanne will begin planning Parent Group Event.
- Maureen will try to fix the WAETAG link.
- Maureen will send out meeting follow-up email to group.
- Maureen will update the group about the status of the bins.
- Group has established the goal to be completely functional by January/February.

Next meeting:

December 7th, 9:45 am, in the Quest portable of Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 am.

Notes recorded by Janet.

Meeting Follow-up Activity (Email):