

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 have been invited to attend.
- Discussed the idea of inviting people not currently part of the parent group.
- Parent Advocacy Resources
 - Group needs to search websites for parent advocacy resources. SENG, John Hopkins, and Stanford are great sources of information.
- Trina's 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.
- ACOS 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.
 - Need to rewrite the Home page blurb.
 - Like the blog - want to keep it in once the site is published.
 - Will include a step-by-step guide for parents to advocate on behalf of their children.
 - Links 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.
 - Decided to include links to relevant material resources such as Mindware and Cranium.
- Event to Introduce Parent Group
 - It was suggested we hold a public event to make the existence of the group known.
 - Discussed when to put on an event, what topics to cover, and possible speakers.
- Activity Bins
 - Materials were selected and copied for master bins. 2,400 copies needed to start bins. Bins contain selected answer keys and Tracy's parent letter with the list of websites.
 - Bins have been named, "Brain Power Bins."
- Discussed what to name the Group
- Maureen Shared Four Fundamentals of Creating Parent Groups
 - Choosing a name.
 - Defining the mission.
 - Assigning jobs.
 - Fundraising

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- Advertising Parent Group and Quest Testing
 - District website.
 - Brochure (would have to be regular paper due to printing expense).
 - Robo-call to announce Quest testing.
 - 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)
 - OEO 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 (Discussed)
- Quest Testing after 7th Grade
 - 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.

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, and send a meeting follow-up email to the group and keep the group apprised of the status of the Brain Power 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.