

ACOS

Meeting Notes: March 19th, 2014

Meeting began at 6:35 pm on March 19th, 2014, in the Quest portable at Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Present:

Maureen, Trina, Joanne, Tracy, Janet, Shannon, Jude, Erin, Dianna, Ryan, Melanie

Topics:

- Introductions
- Quest Parent Meeting with Superintendent
 - Discussed Changes in State Law Regarding Highly Capable Education
 - Distributed handouts from the Quest parent/superintendent meeting
 - 2014/2015 will be transition year
 - 3rd – 8th grade (and some 9th) has Quest program in place; high school has AP, RS, IB (advanced classes)
 - Discussed possibilities for meeting the needs of all identified K-12 students
 - K - 2nd clustering
 - Advanced reading programs for 1st and 2nd graders
 - Keep the 3rd – 6th grade pullout program
 - Blocks of enrichment at each school
 - March 17th Meeting with Dr. Reid
 - Discussed changes in state law regarding highly capable education
 - Must now meet the needs of all highly capable students grades K-12
 - Highly capable students can no longer be waitlisted
 - New language courses offered (Mandarin/Japanese)
 - Junior high schools to be on the same schedules so AP teachers can rotate between buildings
 - Variety of new course offerings (listed at bottom of handout sheet)
 - Highly Capable Education Committee
 - Goal of the committee will be to come up with program models that meet the new state law requirements for highly capable education
 - Discussed Future of Highly Capable Education
 - Cost of testing (Wechsler no longer used, will rely on CogATs)
 - Hand scoring of tests (Maureen)
 - Important to keep the 3rd – 6th grade pullout program (centralized)
 - Meeting the needs of highly capable K - 2nd graders
 - Concern expressed about the idea of librarians running enrichment programs
- ACOS Parent Representatives and Information Distribution
 - Maureen emailed blurb for parent representatives to communicate information about ACOS via school newsletters, school websites, teacher newsletters, etc.
 - Discussed possible Manchester Elementary representative (Jude making inquiry).
 - Discussed ways for representatives to distribute ACOS business cards (Book Fairs, parent/teacher conferences, place in teacher's box with blurb letter).
 - Representatives should check Gmail accounts at least once per week.

- Let other parents know about the upcoming formation of a highly capable education committee and encourage them to join.
- Discussed ¼ sheet printout of ACOS information; decided not financially feasible.
- Maureen has spreadsheet for tracking Power Bin activities for representatives who would like to use it.
- ACOS Website
 - Need to shrink page headings to minimize need to scroll down for important information.
 - Went over Enrichment page activities; encourage people to use these.
 - Add information about the State Science Fair to the events page as well as the STEM showcase at Kitsap Mall.
 - Add PDF of the handout sheet distributed at the Quest parent/superintendent meeting.
 - Facebook link: post Ted Talks to ACOS Facebook page.
- Math
 - Addition of 7th grade algebra for 2014/2015
 - Could be a rough transition period
 - Khan Academy may be useful for preparing this year's 6th graders (may suggest to Math Task Force committee to inform parents about Khan Academy)
 - Math Task Force
 - Decision about which math curriculum to use in schools will be made by May

Future Actions Agreed Upon:

- Janet sends ACOS Logo to Group (Gmail accounts)
- Parent Representatives let people know about Highly Capable Education Committee (and encourage them to join)
- Parent Representatives will check Gmail once per week

Next meeting:

Probably in May; Date TBA

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 7:35 pm.

Notes recorded by Janet.