

## **ACOS PARENT GROUP MEETING MINUTES**

April 10, 2013, 10:00 AM, Quest Portable

*Present:* Maureen Dawson, Tracy Hickle, Shannon Hovater, Jen McConnell,  
Trina Routh, Rebecca Sorter, Joanne Sprague  
*Minutes Recorded by:* Trina Routh

**PLATFORM TESTING:** Maureen gave an update regarding platform screening for Quest at the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade level. There have been concerns that in spite of attempts to inform all teachers and parents about the Quest program, there are still students being missed in the nomination process. There has been discussion about implementing platform testing for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders, meaning that all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders in the district would be given a cognitive test in their schools that is equivalent to the current first round of Quest testing. The company which publishes the CogAT (currently administered as the first round of testing) has recently developed a CogAT Screener. The Screener is an abbreviated version of the CogAT test and can be given in approximately 30 minutes, as opposed to the full assessment which requires a half-day of testing time. The Screener is comprised of the same sections as the full CogAT: Verbal, Quantitative and Non-Verbal. Maureen and Trina will work with the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team at Hidden Creek Elementary to pilot the Screener at Hidden Creek in May. After collecting the data, they will meet with Greg Albertson, Director of Special Programs, and John Yellowlees, Instructional Specialist and Psychologist in the Office of Special Education, to determine whether to proceed with district-wide implementation. They hope to have a decision prior to July 1.

**PARENT GROUP NAME:** There has been frequent discussion about the name of the parent group, most recently addressed by group member Janet McDermott, who noted that our focus is not best represented by "Academic Challenge *in Our Schools*." Maureen pointed out that in order to maintain continuity and not have to switch domain names for the group's website, the same acronym could be used for "Academic Challenge *for Our Students*." All those in attendance agreed that the shift in title would be a good idea.

**GROUP SECRETARY:** Janet McDermott, who serves as the group's webmaster, has also been serving as Secretary and asked to be relieved of those responsibilities. While no one individual stepped forward to fill the role of Secretary, those in attendance agreed to share the responsibilities on a rotating basis.

**SCHOOL BOARD PRESENTATION:** Joanne has been in contact with the School Board in an attempt to have ACOS make a short presentation at a Board meeting. She has been working with Robbie Bell, Secretary to the Superintendent, to schedule that presentation but has not been given a date at this time. It was decided that in light of current transitions at the district with a new incoming superintendent, it would be best to wait until Fall to make the presentation.

**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT:** Last year, ACOS had a booth at the popular SKSD Back to School event, handing out pencils, resources and information about the Parent Academy. ACOS plans to have a booth there this year as well. Ideas about what to have at the booth included lists of thinking games, books and websites, a table with board games such as Smart Mouth, Plexor puzzles for visitors to solve, and

candy/pencils to hand out. The **ACOS group will meet on May 22 at 10:00** in the Quest portable to finalize ideas and then again in June to complete any needed assembly and preparation. The Back to School Celebration will be held on August 17, 2013, at the South Kitsap High School track.

BOOK STUDY: The parent group book study has been well-received and the Living With Intensity group will have its final meeting on April 10. It was agreed that we would wait until Fall to begin the next book study. A list of possible titles will be collected and posted to the ACOS website ([www.4acos.weebly.com](http://www.4acos.weebly.com)).

ACOS SPEAKER EVENT: Maureen has agreed to be the speaker at the ACOS sponsored evening event on May 15, 7-8pm. She presented a list of topics that she is considering and asked for input from the group. Ideas include real-world opportunities for learning, balanced expectations, advocating without enabling, and different forms of giftedness. There will also be time for parent sharing and lists of resources. It was asked if the event was intended for families or parents only. It was decided that the intent would be for parents only, and perhaps to have a supervised room available for children that did accompany parents to the meeting.

CAMP INVENTION: Joanne Sprague and Sam Rosenbloom are directing a new event in the District called the Camp Invention CREATE program. The event is a week-long, science-based Summer Camp hosted by SKSD, and is for students entering grades 1-6. Camp Invention will be held at East Port Orchard Elementary during the week of June 24, from 9-3:30 daily. Cost ranges from \$200-\$220, depending on registration deadlines. Discounts for families with multiple students will be offered. Flyers will be sent home soon with students.

Several of those in attendance expressed a desire to continue meeting informally with Quest parents over the Summer, and Rebecca Sorter volunteered to collect email addresses and coordinate the get-togethers.

**Next meeting: May 22 at 10:00 to plan for the Back to School Event.**

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Routh