

ACOS

Meeting Notes: February 8th, 2012

Meeting began at 9:50 am on February 8th, 2012, in the Quest portable at Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Present:

Maureen, Trina, Joanne, Janet

Topics:

- ACOS Facebook Page “Insights”
 - Passed around activity data printout and had a short discussion of the page activity.
- Brain Power Bins Update
 - District Specialists have met with the 3rd and 4th grades and informed them about the Brain Power bins. Will meet with 6th grade next week.
 - Master bins are complete.
 - Copies are back from Home Depot. Need to check with district office to see if they need help filling the bins.
 - Teachers are being encouraged to take sets of activities and put together bins. There is still some question about the placement of the bins within the school, likely will be set up in libraries or resource rooms. It’s uncertain how much the placement of the bins within the schools will impact how much they are used.
 - Would be good to have instructional specialists and volunteer coordinators informed about and involved with the implementation of the activities.
 - Brain Power bins should be up and running in the schools within a month.
- Distribution of Information about ACOS
 - Flyers advertising ACOS and Pizza Night were sent out to Quest families.
 - Pizza Night fundraiser should help with printing costs. Small flyers cost about \$150.00 per bunch (small ones).
 - Need to make a new flyer with wording to appeal to non-Quest families interested in advocating on behalf of their children at school.
 - Trina passed around the new flyers she made up. Discussed whether or not to have periods in the ACOS acronym - decided not to.
- Quest Nominations
 - Maureen will follow up with Dave Larose on the robo-calls announcing Quest nominations; they have ostensibly been made, but there is some doubt as to whether they went out to everyone.
 - Each school should be sending home a principal’s message announcing Quest nominations.
 - Maureen is contacting each teacher via email to request that they nominate students that they suspect could be eligible for the Quest program.
 - Joanne remarked that if not for the expense, it would be better to test every child.
- Peninsula High’s Move away from the ITBS (Discussed)
- Jr. High Advanced Placement, Honor Classes, etc.
 - District personnel have met to discuss the issues; need to reach an equitable agreement regarding how to move forward. Maureen will give Quest input at a later time.
- Elements of ACOS Event(s)
 - Parent Academy

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- Parent Academy would have several rooms set up in areas such as math and science to demonstrate ways parents can challenge and advocate in various subjects.
- Maureen will meet with N. Kitsap's Gifted Coordinator and education advocate, Larry Davis, to discuss what would be involved with putting a parent academy together.
- Possible Guest Speakers
 - Author/educator Nathan Levy would be willing to speak at an event for free; he would use the opportunity to sell books.
 - Northwest Gifted Child Association President, Marsha Holland, would be willing to speak at an event for free.
- Event(s) would have a breakout area where parents could discuss education issues and advocacy strategies.
- Events would ideally be held at Hidden Creek Elementary because the only cost involved would be custodial fees. Proceeds from food and drink sales by different groups (PTAs and ACOS) could be used to share the custodial cost.
- Joanne thought it would be a good fundraising idea to charge a small fee to attend the event – \$5.00 or so – because paid events tend to have more prestige than free ones. Maureen remarked that Nathan Levy is a great (funny) speaker who normally does charge speaking fees and is worth paying a fee to see. Group agreed it would be a good idea.
- Maureen observed that having food at events draws big crowds. Could possibly solicit pizza and coffee donations from businesses in the community.
- Event Date
 - Need to avoid scheduling conflicts. Joanne will scan big community events and Maureen will search through district events to find the best possible date to hold an event.
 - Joanne cautioned against April 28th, as there is a Harlem Wizards game at the High School that day.
 - Will try to schedule the event on a Saturday morning, preferably before baseball goes into full swing.
- Newspaper Advertising
 - Joanne remarked that the Port Orchard Independent has a new editor that is pro-education and may be willing to send a reporter to cover our kick-off event. Could be an all-encompassing story that tells about the existence of ACOS.
 - Pre-event advertising can be submitted to the Port Orchard Independent Event Calendar for free. Is subject to approval.
- Getting the Word out about the Existence of ACOS
 - Office Coordinators need to be informed about ACOS so they can share information with people.
 - Teachers need to spread the news about ACOS.
 - The Back to School Celebration would be a good place to put the word out; Trina will look into this.
 - Maureen suggested telling new teachers about ACOS during their orientation.
- Peninsula High Moving Away from the ITBS (discussed)
- ACOS Group Meetings/Parent Involvement
 - Will not be inviting the community at large to participate in monthly meetings at this juncture.

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- Maureen suggested it would be fine to arrange get-togethers with parents wishing to discuss education issues and advocacy. Does not believe these gatherings would be appropriate for School District personnel to attend.
- ACOS will rely on the website to inform parents about advocacy strategies
- SKSD Website
 - Maureen shared information she found on the SKSD website which outlines steps parents can take if they are having problems at school. Do not need to include this on the ACOS website because we already have covered the steps that should be taken in a positive manner.

Future Actions Agreed Upon:

- Joanne and Maureen will search the community and district events to try and pick a date that is conflict-free as possible for the ACOS event.
- Maureen will email the group about the results of her Parent Academy meeting with Larry Davis.
- Joanne will try to finish filling Brain Power bins.
- Trina will look into advertising ACOS at the Back to School Event.

Next meeting:

March 14th, 9:45 am, in the Quest portable of Hidden Creek Elementary School.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 am.

Notes recorded by Janet.