

Parent Engagement Forum

March 14, 2008

Minutes

In Attendance

DeAnn Bauman, Bev Patton, Jo Boyd, Erin Cranor, Beverly Waters, Lenny DeForge, Skip Rapoport, Cathy Rosenfeld, Joy Kendal, Melvin Taylor, Allison Turner, Georgeann Ray, Eva Melendrez, Michael Englert, Lauren Kohut-Rost.

Dr. Kohut-Rost began the meeting by addressing the request to devote more meeting time for discussion. It was pointed out that the purpose of both discussion and presentations is to arm parents with knowledge that will be brought back and shared with all schools.

- February's ELL presentation was cited as an important topic requiring detailed explanation.
- A parent recommended sending presentation information electronically to the group prior to the meeting for review.
- When a presentation is placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, parents can email questions which can be addressed during the presentation.
- It is believed this will create greater efficiency and facilitate discussion.
- Those in attendance opposed limiting presentations on topics that requires greater depth.

Transition Services for Students

Kim Boyle and Bryan Myli from Guidance and Counseling were on hand to address student transition services. They were joined by Scott Reynolds and Karen Williams of Student Support Services Division. Handouts were provided to accompany the presentation.

- Transition services for students with disabilities are required by federal law.
- The CCSD begins the process of addressing transition services for special needs students at age 14.
- A student's academic, emotional, and social well-being is considered in the transition process.
- A number of specific programs, including POST, JDP, and PACE (discussed in greater detail in the handouts) are all in place to provide transition services to students.
- The YES program, in partnership with UNLV and CSN, allows students to earn credit and to learn to more effectively access transition services.
- The Quick Reference Guide (just released) further provides a resource for transition services available to students and their families.
- It was recommended that families with IEP students transitioning (from elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school) should contact the appropriate region for additional support and transitional tools if necessary.
- As a result of Assembly Bill 212 counselors are afforded more time to directly interact with students. Still, the case load of counselors is challenging.
- Guidance and Counseling has expanded the professional development of counselors with a variety of offerings regarding college and career counseling.
- Career classes, school career centers, and various computer programs are available as tools for students to learn more about post high school options available.

- Parents may wish to access information on the CCSD website at www.ccsd.net. Simply click on the “Student Opportunities” link on the home page and click on either “College Events” or “Internships” to receive information on colleges, internships, or apprentice opportunities.

Dual Credit Courses

A joint venture between the CCSD, UNLV, CSN, and Nevada State College provides dual credit offerings to students on the high school campus during the regular school day targeting students in their senior year.

- During the first semester, 280 students enrolled in these courses. There are approximately 150 students enrolled this semester.
- The dual credit college-level courses provide the rigor required by the higher education institutions for college credit.
- Dual credit courses are currently offered at the following high schools: Boulder City, Foothill, Liberty, Mojave, Palo Verde, SECTA, Spring Valley, Valley.
- College texts are utilized in these courses with teachers required to meet higher education staff criteria prior to employment as instructors. Many dual credit instructors already serve as adjuncts for higher education programs.
- Instructors must have a master’s degree in the content area in which they are teaching for the higher education institution.
- Students pay \$25 for a three credit class and \$50 for a five credit course.
- Course offerings include English, mathematics, business, psychology, and sociology.
- Because these are college courses, credits are often transferrable to institutions beyond those in Nevada.
- The purpose of expanding these course offerings is to encourage our seniors to avail themselves of all opportunities offered during a full day of instruction. Students also realize a cost savings when earning college credit through the dual credit program. Additionally, it may serve to spark student interest in pursuing post-secondary education beyond the high school years.
- For schools offering dual credit courses, information is available in their course catalogues.
- Currently, not all high schools are providing these course offerings. Parents may check with their school counselors as to dual credit opportunities at their respective schools.
- Successful implementation requires strong coordination between the administration, teachers, counselors, and students.
- The higher education institutions hope to further expand this program.

Elementary School Standards-Based Report Cards

Dr. Kohut-Rost requested feedback from parents of elementary students regarding the new standards-based report cards. In response, parents provided the following comments:

- Most parents are likely to skim the standards information and focus primarily on the overall grade and teacher comments.
- The use of educational terminology creates confusion for parents.
- The weighting of different academic areas also creates confusion for parents.
- If a child is exhibiting academic difficulties, this format does allow the parent to focus in more directly on the problem.

Block Scheduling Study

Dr. Lauren Kohut-Rost provided a handout which compares academic achievement under the block schedule and the traditional, six-period schedule.

Miscellaneous

- Next year's meetings will continue to be held on the last Friday of the month.
- The full schedule for the 2008-2009 school year will be forthcoming.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, April 11 @ 9:30 – Conference Room 466 of the Sahara Administrative Building.
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE.