Guilford County Schools Title I District Parent Advisory Council
Summary for December 6th, 2006

The District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) met on Wednesday, December 6th, 2006, in the English Road Boardroom. Lunch was provided.

The following Title I DPAC members and guests were present:

Stephanie Lemon	Alderman Elementary	Nadelle Maybell	Penn-Griffin Middle
Kim Wise	Alderman Elementary	Margaret Arbuckle	Guilford Education Alliance
Nina Tatum Moore	Bessemer Elementary	Anne Cortés	Guilford Education Alliance
Shirley Williams	Brightwood Elementary	Sue Cox	Title I
Donna Elliott	Fairview Elementary	Carolyn Gilbert	Title I
Tabitha Brown	Frazier Elementary	Kelly Hales	Title I
Debbie Maines	GC Council PTA President	Don Hare	Title I
Julia Vazquez	Lindley Elementary	Jenny Johnson	Title I
Karin Young	Lindley Elementary	Linda Mendenhall	Title I
Dianne Davis	Parkview Elementary		

I. Dr. Hare welcomed all members.

II. District Updates

- Dr. Hare briefly described the October 9-13 DPI monitoring of all Federal Programs by the North Carolina Department of Public Instructions (DPI). GCS received favorable scores in all Federal Programs. As with all program evaluations, some areas were noted for improvement. The next step in this process if for the District to provide responses to the recommendations for these areas by January 12, 2007. DPI will then approve the District Plan to address the recommendations.
- Carolyn Gilbert reported that the ABCs focus on school accountability and student achievement. For the ABCs, there are expected and high growth standards for academic achievement. The goal is for all students to meet at least expected growth.
  Certified staff at all schools achieving expected or high growth receive incentive awards. Bonuses for staff paid from local or state funds come from those specific funds. However, most Title I schools use a portion of their federal (Title I) funds to hire additional staff to better meet the needs of their students. When doing so, all benefits must be paid with the federal funds too. Bonuses for Title I paid staff come from the school's Title I budget. If a school did not achieve expected or high growth, their previously budgeted ABC bonus money was moved to another Title I area of need, such as instructional supplies or tutoring.
  A new growth formula was used, resulting in fewer schools earning ABC recognition across the entire state. For the 2005-06 school year, seven Title I schools achieved expected growth (Archer, Fairview, Hunter, Lindley, Northwood, Oak Hill, and Peck), while Hairston achieved high growth.

- Linda Mendenhall shared information about SES. SES is academic assistance required by NCLB, and is free tutoring outside of the regular school day. Only children at eligible schools who are currently approved for free or reduced lunch may participate in SES. She also informed members that in addition to the schools already participating in SES, Aycock and Penn-Griffin Middle

Schools will be offering SES this year based on the recently released math scores.

- As required by law, parents of children in all schools in improvement received letters informing them of the recently released math scores and how that affected their school's improvement status. Vandalia Elementary came out of improvement status, and the other schools did not have a change in their sanctions for this year.
- Jenny Johnson and Kelly Hales recently attended the "Changing the Way We Do Business in the Village Through Parent/Family Empowerment" conference sponsored by the Raising Achievement & Closing Gaps Section, NCDPI. They will be sharing information from the conference at a future DPAC meeting and hope to have a speaker from DPI as well.
- Title I will pay registration for five DPAC parents to attend the "Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference in Greensboro on March 26-28, 2007. Interested members were asked to notify Kelly Hales by December 22, 2006. Names will be randomly drawn if more than five are interested.

III. Vision Statement

Dianne Davis presented the draft Vision Statement from the Vision Statement sub-committee. The Vision Statement was accepted by the members and will be the DPAC Vision Statement.

IV. Mission Statement

Kelly Hales led an activity to gather input from the group concerning the mission statement. Members listed successful parental involvement strategies and categorized them based on Epstein's types of parental involvement. The Mission Statement subcommittee will meet at a later date to review all of the information collected and to create a DPAC mission statement.

V. Title I School Spotlight

Frazier

- Author, Kimberly Johnson, conducted a student reading activity, a staff development workshop for teachers, and parent workshop. It was very well attended. Each family received an autographed book and dinner was provided.
- A "Latino Night" was held at the school. The Title I representative attended to provide information and answer questions.
- Students will be attending the "Nutcracker" ballet. Some performers visited the school and stressed the importance of reading and writing to students who may be interested in the performing arts.

Lindley

- Karin Young, ESOL teacher, complimented the Hispanic parent representative who calls other parents or talks to them individually to help share information. She also shared a new website (www.meetthetriad.com) to help Guilford County residents connect with others from their home area/country.
- Connect Ed phone messages are sent in English as well as Spanish
- A "Vietnam" awareness night will be held. Food from a Vietnamese restaurant and cookies made by Vietnamese parents will be served. Stories and plays about the culture are to be shared.

Alderman

- Staff members regularly send out parent information in English and Spanish.

- At a recent Muffins for Moms, 87 Moms attended. At Donuts for Dads, 48 Dads attended. The program was on "Teaching My Child to be Compassionate."
- Parents are surveyed using a "Parents Speak Out" form to see what questions, concerns, or training needs parents have.

Bessemer

- The school is attracting parents to workshops by offering books for their children or gift cards from local grocery stores when they participate.

Fairview

- Wants to inform more parents about what Title I means to their school by providing brochures and information at all parent events.

Parkview

- In December, there will be a culture night with demonstrations of how holidays are celebrated in different countries.

Anne Cortés

- Anne Cortés, FOCUS Guilford Project Director at Guilford Education Alliance, shared that when she attended a state conference, she was surprised to hear that many parents in Title I schools across the state did not know what Title I was.

Debbie Maines

- Debbie Maines, President, Guilford County Council PTA, shared that the deadline for the grant "Engaging Families for Student Success" is December 11. All principals and PTA Presidents in Guilford County Schools have already received information about this opportunity to receive a minimum of $2000 for a school project designed to involve parents. Her email is kmaines2@triad.rr.com.

VI. Dates for 2006-07 DPAC Meetings

- Based on the DPAC member survey, the meeting times will be 11:00 – 12:30.
- The next DPAC meeting is February 28, 2007 at Golden Corral, 4409 W. Wendover Avenue, Greensboro.