Guilford County Schools Title I District Parent Advisory Council
Summary for February 28, 2007

The District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) met on Wednesday, February 28th 2007, at the Golden Corral on Wendover Avenue, Greensboro.

The following Title I DPAC members and guests were present:

Stephanie Lemon	Alderman Elementary	Karin Young	Lindley Elementary
Kim Wise	Alderman Elementary	Julia Vazquez	Lindley Elementary
Anethia Witherspoon	Archer Elementary	Y. Hurt Perry	NAACP Education Chair
Nina Tatum Moore	Bessemer Elementary	Debora Sydnor	NC Dept. of Public Instruction
Shirley Williams	Brightwood Elementary	Dianne Davis	Parkview Elementary
Wanda Peebles	Cone Elementary	Carolyn Gilbert	Title I
Tabitha Brown	Frazier Elementary	Kelly Hales	Title I
Terrina Picarello	GC Council PTA President	Don Hare	Title I
Latoria Peoples	Hunter Elementary	Jenny Johnson	Title I
Nasrin Riahi	Johnson Street	Linda Mendenhall	Title I
Donna Butler	Memorial UMC	Ronda Robb	Title I

I. Dr. Hare welcomed all members and guests

II. Jenny Johnson introduced our guest speaker Debora Sydnor, Chief of the Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Section, NC Department of Public Instruction. Ms. Sydnor shared many "Tips for Parents":
- Needs to be a relationship between parents and teachers
- Three people involved in accountability toward student success: parent-teacher-child; this is pivotal to student achievement
- Create an expectation for why your children go to school
- If your child knows you are in regular contact with the school, she/he will walk the line.

III. Other guests shared what Meaningful Involved Families might involve:
Higher test scores; higher GPAs; high school graduates and enrollment in post-secondary schools; increased morale among students, faculty, and staff.

Sometimes gaps in parent information are related to cultural differences; what is expected from parents is not known. Send comprehension questions home in Spanish so there is no excuse for parents/guardians not reading/working with their children.

Glenwood Library is an international library – all languages. Radio every other Monday is in Spanish 6:30 – 6:50 a.m. and television broadcast daily (bilingual).

Dr. Hare shared that Mayra Hayes, Director of ESL has information on their Webpage regarding Glenwood Library and GCS is considering a "Newcomer School" which is under consideration by the School Board; enrollment would be voluntary for one year.

IV. To increase Parent Involvement:

- Share general information regarding improving of parent involvement
- Identify the roadblocks to family involvement and deal with them
- Set principles of family involvement
- Develop and implement a school-family partnership model

Sometimes parents are intimidated by school itself, or personnel, or all the acronyms, so parents stay away; there is more to getting parents to come than planning convenient times.

V. How can schools develop a relationship with the hard to reach parent (handout)?

- We need to train parents on how to confer with teachers and vice versa
- We should respect the teacher and principal for their position.
- Parents should also understand the culture of the school
- Just stop and listen. Encourage the hard-to-reach parent to converse with teacher right at the beginning of the year to build those relationships of cultural respect.
-

We hope to have Ms. Sydnor return for the May DPAC meeting to continue the discussion on "Tips for Parents."

VI. The Mission Statement Committee Update was tabled until the May DPAC meeting.

VII. Dr. Hare shared a brief update on the status of the LEA Improvement Plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.