



District Parental Advisory Council (DPAC)
February 11, 2009
Meeting Summary

Alderman Elementary	Jynnifer Washington (A)	Vandalia Elementary	Dr. Fred Wood (R)
Allen Jay Elementary	Oflia Kindly (A)	Welborn Middle	Artanza Williams (R)
Archer Elementary	Michael Dearman (R)	Wiley	Freida Harris (R)
Fairview Elementary	Joan McCorkle (R)	Title I	Dr. Don Hare
Falkener Elementary	Karen Midgett (R)	Title I	Kelly Hales
Ferndale Middle	Janet Shapiro (R)	Title I	Kenya Donaldson
Frazier Elementary	Damon Williams (R)	Title I	Jenny Johnson
Gillespie Park	Chris Smith (R)	Title I	Abbey Windsor
Guilford Elementary	Ebony Powers (R)	Title I	Bonnie Ham
Hairston Middle	Tiara Matthews (R)	Title I	Pat Lamont
Hampton Academy	Angela Winchester (R)	School Board Member	Nancy Routh
Hunter Elementary	Jennifer Evans (A)	NC PIRC	Beverly Roberts
Jackson Middle	Lissa Harris (R)	Consultant	Bob Witherspoon
Jamestown Elementary	Carl Serrette (R)	Guest	Dr. Melvin DuBose
Kirkman Park Elementary	Dorsia Crockett (A)	Guest	Crystal Hatcher
Lindley Elementary	Michelle Schneider (R)	Guest	Iris Delgado
Montlieu Elementary	Rolanda Bynum (R)	Guest	Linda Mozell
Peck Elementary	Jessica Hernandez(R)	Guest	Anita Whitehurst
Rankin Elementary	Kristi Bryson(A)		
Rankin Elementary	Donna Williams (R)		
Sedgefield Elementary	Karen Siler (R)		
Union Hill Elementary	Ginger Cottrell(R)		

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. Kelly Hales, Director of Title I, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the February DPAC Meeting.
- B. Special guests were in attendance and introductions were made: Bob Witherspoon, Consultant; Beverly Roberts, NC PIRC; Dr. Nancy Routh, Board of Education Member.
- C. Each DPAC member introduced him/herself.
- D. The Federal Programs/Title I Staff was introduced.

II. “Honest Conversations About Parent Engagement” with Bob Witherspoon, Consultant

- A. Mr. Witherspoon facilitated the discussion allowing parents opportunities for open dialogue and to discuss the role of parents with regards to Title I. In addition, he wanted to learn about GCS parents by allowing them to share their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs with members and guests.
- B. Mr. Witherspoon discussed the following:
 1. The importance of communication
 2. The history of the Title I program (establish in 1965 as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)
 3. The legacy of parents working to contribute to the parental involvement aspect of the Title I program, especially student achievement.
 4. The program as one where the tax dollars come back to our school district.
- C. Because parent responsibilities have changed through the years, Mr. Witherspoon recommend that parents visit the U.S. Department of Education website (www.ed.gov), read Title I regulations, act as mentors to other parents in the District, ask questions, and watch that federal funds are used effectively in the schools.
- D. Important message: Parents need to be involved in their child’s education; it is the most important job parents will ever do. Additionally Mr. Witherspoon stated, “When your child starts school, so do you.”
- E. Parents are encouraged to seek resources including <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/>, and NC PIRC <http://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/education/pirc.htm>.
- F. Mr. Witherspoon defined parent involvement and listed five roles of parent leaders. He provided the following explanations of these roles:
 1. **Mentor**- Share what they have learned as parents with others. Serving as a coach to other parents they know.
 2. **Outreach**- Telling other parents what is going on in the district and school.

STRIVING. ACHIEVING. EXCELLING.

3. **Vision-** Showing and telling other parents what is good for student achievement. Tell friends the importance of reading to their child if necessary.
 4. **Empower-** Protect the interest of the parents and inform parents of what is going on with Title I money in the school.
 5. **Role Model-** Be watchful and careful how one deals with problems in the school as other parents are watching.
- G. Questions regarding school leadership teams, communication with administrators, connection between DPAC and the events at schools, increased parent participation without providing food, role of parents on leadership team, were asked by members and answered by other DPAC members, Dr. Routh, and Kelly Hales.
- H. Throughout the discussion, members shared ideas from schools with other members.
1. Jamestown's representative spoke about the importance of PTA and offered his services to all schools since he works with schools across the state, but he resides in Guilford County. He also said that parent involvement can be as simple as checking your child's book bag every night.
 2. Hampton's representative talked about building relationships with other parents at the school and described how Hampton established "Men's Days at Hampton." Dads at Hampton call one another for encouragement and to invite to meetings. The suggestion was also made to hold meetings and events at community sites and unlikely places – like a school dance. Parents take responsibility for getting other parents involved.
 3. Alderman's representative described that as a result of December's meeting; the school created "Fun Fridays with Fathers" by asking fathers what they wanted to do and established time for students to meet with the volunteers on Fridays. Additionally, they had a Saturday basketball game with 30 dads present. After the game, they were able to recruit fathers for their "Fun Fridays with Fathers".
 4. Allen Jay's representative described how the school's parent liaison/translator hosts monthly meetings for ESL parents at the same time and date each month. They feel this helps parents to remember when it is and they can set aside the time to come. They have 25-40 in attendance each time. Parents can bring any questions or issues to discuss.
 5. Frazier's representative stressed the importance of "fighting for good principals to back up parents" and the idea of full funding for all schools so that the Title I funds can be used for additional support, not to fill gaps in what Title I schools need.
 6. Dr. Routh encouraged parents to talk to principals and set up parent forums by grade levels to provide parents with an opportunity for input. She also reported to the membership that the Board of Education sends recommendations to the State and Federal legislation annually.
 7. Mr. Witherspoon suggested that parents attend leadership team meetings with other parents and speak personally with the principal.
- III. Round Table Discussions were replaced with continued full group discussions as requested by the membership.
- IV. GCS Parent Delegation Update
- A. Conference Materials- Jessica Hernandez, Peck's representative, shared how conference participants chose the sessions they attended at the conference based on the needs of their schools. The main goal of the conference participants was to bring back as many materials as possible to share with the group. The delegation created the booklet, in an effort to share their desire to pass along materials that they received at the conference with DPAC. The Title I Office will send a copy of the conference booklet to each school so that another copy of the conference materials is available for parents and school staff.
 - B. Parent Institute- Damon Williams, Frazier's representative, announced a parents' institute on Saturday, September 26, 2009, for Title I and Exceptional Children's parents. He invited the membership to submit applications to serve on planning committees and to turn them into him, Jessica Hernandez or Dorsia Crockett.
 - C. Damon thanked the Federal Programs staff for allowing the parents to be active participants of DPAC and said he looked forward to continuing his work as a DPAC member.
- V. District Update-
- A. Parent Delegation to the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gaps Conference- For the fourth year, the Title I office will sponsor parents for the upcoming Closing the Gap Conference. Completed interest forms, that were included in the meeting invite, were due no later than Thursday, February 12th. Five parents will be chosen to attend the conference, and final selection for conference delegation will be determined by Mr. Witherspoon and Ms. Roberts. The parents who attended the Alabama Conference will help mentor the "new" group of parent conference participants, and the Gap Conference Delegation will determine ways to share information with the membership.
 - B. Spring Planning Process- The planning process of the 2009-2010 school year will begin next month. Schools will receive planning allocations in April. As the schools develop their Title I Plans, they are required to provide parents the opportunity for input into the development of the plan. DPAC representatives are encouraged to contact the parent representative on the School Improvement Team at their school, if they are not that person, and talk about what parents want to see in the Title I plan.

- VI. School Spotlights- Many ideas were shared with the membership during the meaningful conversations with Mr. Witherspoon, in addition to the ones listed below.
- A. Ferndale Middle- representative, Janet Shapiro, shared that the school is creating a Parent Resource Center. They are also starting a clothes closet for families and are especially requesting school uniforms. Families that donate a uniform will get a credit voucher to use toward another uniform (in a larger size). She mentioned that at the middle school often students outgrow their uniforms and they are not worn out.
 - B. Frazier Elementary- representative, Damon Williams, shared that the school has a free movie night. Families can gather for entertainment but also information can be shared. At dances, parents must be encouraged to stay and not just drop off their children. Activities that keep the whole family together at the school are beneficial.
 - C. Falkener Elementary- representative, Karen Midgett, shared that the school had a book fair with an African Jungle theme. Students created the “African Jungle” even with elephants and parents were able to experience it when they came to the fair.
 - D. Hunter Elementary- Iris Delgado, the school’s interpreter, shared that the school sponsored a coat collection for anyone who needed a winter coat. Some swapped coats and others were able to just get a warm coat.
 - E. Allen Jay - Ofilia Kindly, the school’s interpreter, reported that the school has established an all year food bank and it has been very successful.
 - F. Archer Elementary - A husband “Mike” filled in when his wife had a conflict and couldn’t attend. Damon, the Frazier representative, spoke about how one person can make a difference in parental involvement. He said when certain people call others and ask them to help, people respond. He said “Mike” is “that dude” at Archer.
 - G. Dr. Hare spotlighted the membership because of the growth of DPAC over the past several years.
- VII. Next Meeting: April 8, 2009: Children’s Museum, Church Street, Greensboro. 11 AM to 1 PM