Guilford County Schools Title I District Parent Advisory Council
Summary for March 9th, 2006 at 11:30 AM

The District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) met on Thursday, March 9th, in the Purple Pod at the Gateway Education Center. Lunch was provided.

The following Title I DPAC members were present:

Dale Leach – Alderman
Ophelia Kindley – Allen Jay
Carmen Franco – Allen Jay
Germaine Goggins – Bessemer
Sherry Yawn – Frazier
Felisa Coates - Frazier
Dara Morgan - Hunter
Nasrin Riahi – Johnson Street
Julia Vazquez – Lindley
Elaine Gal - Lindley
Karen Siler – Wiley

Dr. Don Hare – Title I
Ronda Robb – Title I
Linda Mendenhall – Title I
Kelly Hales – Title I
Carolyn Gilbert – Title I

Others present:
Anne Cortes – Guilford Education Alliance

I. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Hare welcomed all in attendance and introduced Title I staff members. Each participant introduced himself/herself, school represented, and children's grade level.

II. Spotlighting Parent Activities in Schools

Frazier:

Their parenting classes focus on teaching parents how to be involved in the school and use of discipline at home. They have had two classes so far with one more planned. Staff members want parents to know that every child is different and that how the home is structured makes a difference with how children succeed at school and later in the community.

Allen Jay:

Monthly meetings have been held to educate their Hispanic parents on how the school operates and how things are conducted in the community. Literacy classes are on-going and restaurants have donated food to serve during activities. Flyers were posted in local businesses to advertise events. Their "Raising Awareness of Literacy in Hispanic Families" grant is being utilized well.

Lindley:

They are implementing various strategies to help their Hispanic parents become more involved in the school.

Hunter:

Staff members recently hosted a "Family Math Games Night" using teacher-made games. The parents learned how to play the games and about the math concepts being reinforced. Games were then sent home with the parents to play with their children later.

Parent Involvement logs from our Title I schools were distributed for members to review and note the multitude and variety of activities held so far this school year to engage parents in their children's education.

III. National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

Carolyn Gilbert shared information regarding the district's support of NNPS in our six Title I middle schools. An overview of the model was discussed and a handout was distributed detailing the six types of parent involvement: parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with the community. Six elementary schools will implement the model next year and six additional schools will do so the following year.

IV. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference (March 27-29, 2006)

Kelly Hales discussed the format of the conference. She will attend as will 10 DPAC members. Expectations were given regarding the attendees' report to be shared at the next DPAC meeting. Karen Siler, DPAC member from Wiley Elementary, will be presenting at one of the sessions.

The National Coalition of ESEA Parents awarded certificates for participants who attended the 32nd Annual ESEA Conference in Kentucky yet also participated in a specific number of sessions and made a school visit. Three of the 10 attendees received the honor and Dr. Hare presented those certificates.

V. 2006-2007 Title I planning process

Linda Mendenhall explained the planning process for next year's Title I application. She encouraged parents to contact their schools to indicate their interest to be involved in the development of the school's Title I plan. Parent input is valued and makes the school's plan stronger. School plans will be submitted to the Title I office in June.

Dr. Hare added that funds are allocated directly to the schools and each school plans their own budget.

VI. DPAC Communication

Each DPAC member present was given an individual sheet with his/her name, address, phone numbers, and email address to make corrections and give/deny permission to share same information with other DPAC members to enhance communication and collaboration.

Dara Morgan, Hunter Elementary, distributed three handouts to promote ways for DPAC to be more effective and get more parents involved. She suggested that members meet monthly on their own to share issues and needs, and then present at the scheduled DPAC meeting.

Anne Cortes shared that local churches are getting together weekly to talk about schools and discuss ways parents can be involved.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 1:00 pm. The next DPAC meeting was announced for Thursday, June 1st at 11:30 AM in the Franklin Blvd. boardroom.