District Parental Advisory Council (DPAC)
February 13, 2008
11:00 - 12:30
Summary

Carol Johnson	Allen Jay ES	Freida Harris	Wiley ES
Belinda Sledge	Bluford ES	Meredith Chandler	GCS
Gloria Wallace	Brightwood ES	Julia Gordon	GCS
Janet Shapiro	Ferndale MS	Martha Ray	GCS
Damon Williams	Frazier ES	Dr. Shirley Smith	GCS
Sarah Robinson	Gillespie Park ES	Natalie Stewart	GCS
Angela Winchester	Hampton ES	Kerrie Douglas	Title I
Tammy Baxter	Johnson St. ES	Kelly Hales	Title I
Shannon Ward	Montlieu ES	Dr. Don Hare	Title I
John Teleha	Parkview ES	Jenny Johnson	Title I
Kristi Bryson	Rankin ES	Carol Marrufo	Title I
Donna Williams	Rankin ES		

I. Welcome and Introductions

A. Dr. Don Hare welcomed everyone and reminded DPAC members that the participation of parents with schools and children is important for student achievement. Parents need to continue to be role models for children.

B. Kelly Hales announced that the LEA Improvement Plan was approved by DPI and is available on the GCS webpage. The input from DPAC members during the December meeting was included in this plan.

II. GCS Math Curriculum Coaches

A. Natalie Stewart, Meredith Chandler and Julia Gordon presented elementary level information regarding measures, vocabulary, and visual thinking.

1. The Elementary team shared with the group ways to improve children's learning and how hands on activities can be incorporated at home. Examples include:
   a) Asking children to cook at home with adults and measure out ingredients so they learn about fractions, temperatures, and use vocabulary outside of the classroom.
   b) Having children measure different items around the house using various measures such as rulers, crayons, or pencils.
   c) Encourage children to tell time using an analog clock since this is one of the hardest concepts to learn because children are unfamiliar with it. Using vocabulary with the activities helps students; "What time it is now?" "Dinner will be ready in a quarter of an hour, what time will that be?"
2. These activities encourage discussions about what the child is thinking and explanation of how the child reached his/her answer. During these

discussions, children are not wrong; they only need to look at other options to see if another answer makes more sense.

3. If parents are unsure of the concepts being taught, they should request a meeting and ask the teacher to explain the concepts so that the student can be assisted outside of the classroom.

B. Dr. Shirley A. Smith presented middle school information and focused on the concept of functions, using a Foldable or a three part definition, and offered some on-line simulations at http://www.shodor.org/interactive/ and http://nlvm.usu.edu/.
   1. Middle school students need strong foundations for High School and their futures since math is used throughout life.
   2. Since math is used everyday, middle school students should be encouraged to relate math to everyday activities such as:
      a) Purchasing gas- how many gallons take for the car to be full, how much does each gallon cost, and how many miles does the car go on each gallon? Graphs can be used to illustrate the relationships.
      b) Dr. Smith reviewed the attached handouts.

C. Martha Ray presented information specific to high school students. She discussed strategies that can be used for students in Algebra I and II; Geometry; AP Calculus; and Pre-Calculus.
   1. Foldables are a beneficial tool for students because they can use them at all times and students have to explain in writing what they are thinking.
   2. Parents are encouraged to be part of the school experience and check homework because students always have some homework even if it is only to read a library book
   3. The attached handout was reviewed.

III. Raising Achieving and Closing Gaps Conference– The Title I office is sponsoring five parents to attend the conference, March 31 – April 2, 2008, which is being held here in Greensboro. Members interested in being considered for the drawing were asked to provide the Title I office their name no later than Wednesday, February 20, 2008.

IV. School Spotlights- Due to time restrictions, School Spotlights were not shared; however one was submitted to be included in the meeting summary:

Bluford Elementary School will host a carnival on May 31, 2008.

V. Next scheduled meeting- April 9, 2008, 11:00-1:00 PM, location will be confirmed in the meeting announcement sent out prior to the meeting. Author Kimberly Johnson will be at the final DPAC meeting. To allow her adequate time with DPAC members and time for parents to share School Spotlights, the meeting will be extended a half of an hour. Please make note of the change.