

**Parent Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 4, 2011**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Smithland Elementary School Library**

**MINUTES**

Pat Lintner discussed:

- AP classes – now coordinating K-12 instruction
- K-5 math program – Singapore Math
  - Pilot in Lexington, KY
  - Global Competitiveness
  - Committing to staff development and a whole new way of learning
- Take students to a level of critical thinking beyond
- Curriculum created around problem solving concepts
- Processes – thinking skills, problem solving methodologies
- Skills – special visualization, solve difficult problems without formalized math
- Metocognition – thinking about thinking
- Problems are embedded in context

TIMMS – Trends in International Math and Science

- Learning theory of Jerome Bruner
- Learning goes from concrete to pictorial to abstract
- Pictorial draw/illustrate
- Abstract actual
- Evolution of moving toward the abstract
- Build on concepts you have in a deliberate way – called “spiraling out” (mental math/calculations early on)
- Formal treatment is delayed
- Word problems – emphasis on problem solving
- Focused and convert – fewer topics in greater depth
- Math in Focus in Harrisonburg guide

QUESTIONS:

- Q – Transition Guide – first step to getting older kids into the program?  
Books – “Math in Focus”  
Homeschool guides  
June/July 10-week training for teachers – formalized training  
Parent Academy  
Fall 2011 – Pat will be out working with teachers and helping parents  
Learning philosophy of this is key.

Q – Available to all students?

Yes, all K-5 in all schools

Q – Middle & high school program?

Possibly adopt 6-8 grade program

Q – Will this eliminate need for kids to be pulled out for differentiation?

They will teach at some level in smaller groups to account for this

We need to recognize our diversity but may do the same

Hopes we can work with teachers to differentiate within classroom with

acceleration at the fore front

Math is greatly dependent on the teachers

Q – Approval from school board?

Not necessary unless we adopt textbooks.

Q – Funds?

State support of cost of books along with local match

Q – Did the company (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) tell you of any that have dropped the program?

No, however this does not mean it has not been dropped.

Q – How to handle transition of kids/teachers coming in during school year?

It is still math – processes can be taught math concept.

Need experience, aware of problem under current math as well.

We will be networking with other communities who are offering the program.

Q – Plans to act manipulatives in home?

Will consider organizing a system

Contact Pat Lintner at [plintner@harrisonburg.k12.va.us](mailto:plintner@harrisonburg.k12.va.us)

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL:

- Parents are concerned about what happens when they get to high school.
- Taking credits early then done by Jr. & Sr. year
- Does PE credit mean less in high school, possibly more PE electives
- Spanish & Algebra right now get credits
- Parents decide what kids take
- Recognize some kids will struggle – built in time for those needing help with studies.

- Excited about offering more electives
  - 12 weeks in science
  - good balance in system
  - science and social studies
  - electives
  - opportunity for more high school credit (52% getting adv. degrees – goal is 60%)
- PowerPoint explaining is still on the website

#### HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE:

- A B meet every other day
- 4 x 4 - 8 credits
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> – “no harm” kids would not be affected
- Schedule not yet finalized and still working on it

#### CALENDAR:

- Adopted with 9 week grading periods instead of 6.
- Once a month early release for collaboration.

#### ELEMENTARY FOREIGN LANGUAGE:

- Jeremy Aldrich will oversee the program. He speaks French and Spanish.
- Spanish program on 6-day rotation
- Not the Dual Immersion K-1 at Smithland

NOTE: May want Dr. Kizner to comment on:

- Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) – Teacher hired to oversee
- Jason Project
- Parent Resource Center – for all aspects, not only new math program but for all resources
- Only 25% kids entering high school with credits – only 52 % graduating with adv. degrees
- Amy Sabarre – new STEM coordinator
- After-school program for next year will expand