

**Parent Advisory Committee
January 12, 2011
6:30 p.m.
Smithland Elementary School**

MINUTES

The following topics were discussed:

Calendar

- Staff at 7 of the 8 schools prefer Option #1 but would like day before Thanksgiving off.
- Teacher collaboration time and early dismissal once a month.
- Transition kindergarten – the State allows for five days of this.
- Dr. Kizner will propose Option #1 in February with the following changes: last student day June 7, last staff day June 8, and day before Thanksgiving off.
- May add bank time to high school (4 extra minutes per class).

Parent Portal – Diana Flick, presenter

- Elementary school: attendance at first, then discipline
- Middle and High School: grades--full access to grade book for child if teacher is participating.
- This year is a pilot program. If it goes well, all teachers will participate next year.
- Login: Password from school. School guidance dept., school IT can offer support if a parent is confused or something isn't working.
- Communication between school, parent, teacher & student is the goal.
- Parent Portal is to go live next week. Contact guidance dept. if interested.
- All students from one family should pop up with one login.

After-School Program

- Skyline/Spotswood: JMU Grant, separate from other school programs.
- Huge support for after-school program from parents. Monday-Thursday – programs either 2 or 4-day programs.
- Each school has coordinators that are planning programs.

- JMU/Bridgewater students are being matched with HCPS staff.
- Fee: \$5/day including snacks. Scholarships available. Fee is to help ensure a commitment from parents.
- Program goes for 2 hours after school lets out.
- February 1-5, 2011 will be the first week.
- Still a question about transportation. Hoping parents partner to pick children up.

Bullying

- January is Bully Prevention Month.
- January 26, 2011 there will be a parent discussion at Thomas Harrison Middle School.
- Principal panel for discussion about what will happen (prevention, consequences) in each specific school.

Budget

- Elementary Foreign Language Program – positions will be posted to begin program next year.
- Increasing 5th grade staff at THMS, since will be increasing in numbers there next year.
- We increased our student population by 200 last year. If that continues, we will have to look at re-zoning.
- Early education – 4-year-old programs in all elementary schools will be proposed.
- Music classes added to high school.
- Middle School – high school credit at 7th grade.
- At State level, Governor has proposed increase in VRS.
- Nurses for 8 buildings.

Around the Table

- School Based Health Center in high school? Would need to possibly coordinate with health department.
- Safety in schools – discipline is reported monthly to superintendent. After-school screenings, consistent with all staff.
- After-school program - recommended to do something physical. Let it be fun; no SOL or testing/measuring required.
- Recognize and facilitate teachers doing extra and above.

- When newsletter is sent out, it would be more helpful if it was a direct link or a direct attachment rather than just to the HCPS website.
- Website will be changed to show pictures of real kids and highlight from each school.

**Next Meeting: March 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m., Skyline Middle School
library**