

Parent Advisory Committee

October 7, 2015

Agenda:

I. Welcome

Introduce any visitors or new faces.
Introduce any attending board members.
Introduce any attending administrators.

II. Business

a. Lunch time at Wilson Creek

Scheduling a pool of parent volunteers to assist with the pre-packaged meals that are served, scheduling both a morning and an afternoon snack. We were able to schedule an additional 5 minutes for First Grade. Teachers continue to make every effort to bring the students early.

b. How it is being addressed (Indoor Recess – Bad Weather Days, so students can have time to move)

The challenges of indoor recess have been discussed and ideas have been discussed as well. The number of students and the physical space limitations make things very challenging. Ideas that have been brought up during our discussions have been shared with the Principals and staff. We actually have a couple staff that are incorporating movement into their classrooms in order to give the students the opportunity to release some energy as well as stimulate the thought process. I am excited by this approach and would expect that the staff would be able to share the positive effects to other staff during an Institute or School Improvement Day. At the very least, during grade level and leadership meetings, they would be able to share their experiences.

c. Amount of Writing at the Junior High – How much? Concern there is not enough writing.

Writing builds over grades 6-8 and is done in all content areas (math, SS, etc.), but is the heaviest in ELA. In ELA, students write daily in journal assignments and so forth. There are bi-weekly, formal assessments where the students are assessed on: Characterization Writing, Theme Writing, Figurative Language, and Plot Writing. Also, students compose weekly Vocab stories and add-on writing. In addition, there is a great deal of presentation of their writing in front of their peers. In ELA especially, the ELA staff couple the students writing with technology.

d. *Assessment Update*

This is an item that continues to be looked at and the administration continues to look at areas where assessment can be reduced. Building Principals meet monthly with their grade level and leadership teams, discussing the data/scores provided by the assessments, utilizing the information to make important decisions regarding instruction. We will also look at our week-to-week assessments to see if they are necessary since we are completing quarterly assessments.

e. *Possible Lease/Purchase option available to Parent/Student*

We are currently in the process of implementing the wireless networks at each building. In the past couple of years, we have improved the connectivity to the district, greatly increased the number of devices for student use, and as I just mentioned, are in the process of implementing and stabilizing the wireless networks in each building. The infrastructure is vital to the success of the technology, so before we can take the step of adding even more devices to the network, we have to be able to handle the current load on the network. I am happy to report that we will have this completed by the beginning of the new school year. In addition, I am also looking at possibilities of increasing the amount of bandwidth without raising the cost to the district, so we can handle more devices and the traffic it will bring. I am hopeful that we can truly look at a program that will allow parents to go through the school district for a lease to own program that will place devices in all our student's hands. Also, just as important, we have staff that are currently utilizing the technology in their classrooms and designing lessons that will utilize the technology in ways that support and enhance the instruction, and will be able to train the rest of our staff. We do not want to do a 1:1 initiative and have unused technology, or have the technology used solely for educational games. We are making great strides in this area and I believe we have staff doing it the right way. Each month, we have staff presenting to the BOE, how the new technology is being utilized in the classrooms.

III. Adjourn