

Site Council Minutes

April 18, 2011

The Site Council for Central Elementary met on Monday, April 18, 2011. The following were present: Michelle Koch, Bruce Coleman, Stacie Jones, Katie Fritz, Kim Stewart, Angie Matthews, Brenda Page, Marsha DeHart, Angela Allenbrand, Carrie Ficke, Jenny Brase, Kerri Haller, Lisa Plankinton, Marilyn Beck, Deb Rice and Cheryl Blume.

The meeting was called to order by President Michelle Koch. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 21 meeting, as posted on the website and distributed to the members via email. Motion carried.

The Second Grade Teachers gave a presentation about standardized testing. In the fall, they conduct a Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA) of each child to determine their strengths and weaknesses. Books containing both fiction and non-fiction stories are used. Comprehension questions are asked of the children. Based on the results of this testing, the children are placed in individual reading groups. Fluency is also tested. Second graders are expected to read at a Level 16 upon entering second grade. As the students reach benchmarks throughout the year, they may be moved to different reading groups that will meet their needs and abilities.

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing is electronically administered in both the spring and the fall to second graders. Reading and a variety of math skills are tested. Writing assessments include expository, narrative, and technical. The children are expected to score near 179 at the beginning of second grade. At the end of the school year, their score should be 190 or higher. Various strengths and weaknesses are identified in several categories of both reading and math. Parents will have access to the scores at the end of the school year and be encouraged to help their student improve on skills over the summer, that were identified as weaknesses.

The Preschool teachers gave a presentation on their professional development project. Because of their unique needs, they are allowed to plan their own program for professional development. They presented information they have researched and studied in regard to teaching children with Downs Syndrome. They highlighted two books that had been especially helpful, Downs Syndrome Nutrition Handbook and Communication Skills for Downs Syndrome. Children with Downs Syndrome process food differently and therefore need fewer calories. They are sensitive to textures and aromas of foods. Emphasis sometimes needs to be made on oral motor development for proper eating skills.

Communication with children with Downs Syndrome includes both verbal and non verbal. These children typically began speech later than children not affected with Downs. This also affects language development. Other milestones that affect speech and language are also achieved later. If verbal skills are not ready, then children may communicate by signing or using pictures. Children with Downs Syndrome typically have better visual memory skills versus auditory memory.

Carrie Ficke attended the Board of Education Meeting on April 11 as a member of Central Elementary Site Council. She gave a summary of the agenda items that were discussed. The full text of the minutes of this board meeting are available on the district website.

Katie Fritz gave an update on the Books for Kids program. Over one-thousand books were donated for this program. The books will now need to be stamped, then divided by age group, to prepare for final distribution. The goal is to complete the project by the end of the first week of May. Books will be shared with classrooms and also with families in the community.

Brenda Page led a discussion to extend the length of site council meetings from thirty minutes to forty-five minutes. It was moved and seconded to extend the length of the meeting to 45 minutes. Motion carried. This new policy will become effective at the next site council meeting, scheduled for May 16, and will continue with all future site council meetings.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2011.

Submitted by: Angela Allenbrand, Secretary