

**Edison Elementary School
Collaborative School Committee Meeting
November 12, 2008**

Call to Order: 4:50 p.m.

Members Present: Ann Christy, Principal; Robert Hudnall, Teacher; Marcia Mason, Paraprofessional; Bret Hann, Parent; Rebecca Valdez, Parent; Suzanne Leff, Parent.

Guests: Christopher Scott, PTA President; Vanessa Mead, Parent.

I. School Improvement Plan

A. Accelerated Reader

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) includes the implementation of Accelerated Reader (AR) as one of the main action steps toward the reading and writing goals. The Committee discussed the academic research related to the implementation of AR and the training available to teachers. AR serves as a monitoring tool for independent reading, not an instructional tool. Classroom teachers can only spend twenty minutes of class time on independent reading.

Research. Research indicates that teachers and parents should have a firm understanding of readability at the child's level and should supervise book choices. In addition, research stresses the importance of the following:

- Implement AR correctly
- Use AR Best Classroom Practices Guide
- Schedule nine (9) hours worth of phone training for teachers
- Level the books in the school library; note: the AR reading levels focus on reading, not maturity level, but online AR resources provide maturity references
- Administer the Star Test at the beginning of the school year to identify students' abilities on a continuum for 45 different reading skills
- Help parents understand how the AR levels work, including the fact that students can read above their levels

Status of Implementation. Mr. Hudnall explained the steps already taken to implement AR at Edison. The 5th and 4th grade classes, and two 2nd grade classrooms, have started using AR. Mr. Hudnall, with 9 years of experience using AR, has served as the primary resource for the classroom teachers using AR. At this point, the teachers will use student tests and goal setting and anecdotal teacher responses to evaluate the effectiveness of AR.

The Committee discussed the importance of scheduling training before the end of the calendar year and implementing AR in all 1st through 5th grade classrooms, consistent with the SIP, now rather than later.

Action Item: The Committee will follow-up by e-mail on the dates and time frame for training prior to the December 10th meeting.

B. Book Clubs

The DPS Foundation awarded an A to Z Fund grant in the amount of \$1060.00 to Edison for after-school book clubs. The Committee extends thanks to Michele Kilen for writing the grant. The Committee discussed space available for the book club meetings, teacher sponsors, and measurements of success. Ms. Christy indicated that the book club groups can meet at the school in the classrooms. The Committee recommended using attendance and a survey of participants as measurements of success. The Committee also talked about visiting the book club meetings.

C. Tracking

The Committee recognizes the need for regular tracking of the action steps and milestones on the SIP. The parent members of the Committee divided up the goals on the SIP and committed to preparing tracking tools for each of the action steps and milestones. They divided the goals as follows:

- Reading: Suzanne
- Writing: Bret
- School Safety, Climate and Culture: Tina
- Community Engagement: Rebecca

II. **Community Involvement**

A. CSC Binders

Ms. Christy will assemble binders for all CSC members by the next meeting. The Committee members will store the binders in Mr. Baltz's room.

B. Staffing

Paraprofessionals. Ms. Christy hired the health paraprofessional who is scheduled to start after Thanksgiving break. One more paraprofessional position remains open.

Assistant Principal. The hiring committee sent three candidates to Tracy Dorland, DPS Instructional Superintendent, for consideration. The candidates include one man and two women. The male candidate is the top choice of everyone on the hiring committee and is in-District, so the transition could happen rather quickly.

C. DCTA Contract

As part of the DCTA contract compliance, Ms. Christy must make sure that teachers with over four semesters of lunch room duty do not cover the lunch room and playground supervision unless they choose to do so. One teacher with over four semesters of experience no longer wants to cover playground duty and has filed a grievance against Ms. Christy. Ms. Christy follows District policy and makes sure that certified teachers supervise the lunch room and the playground. Ms. Vigil has agreed to cover the lunch room for now.

III. **Guiding Principles**

The Committee decided on guiding principles to assist with the development of the revised SIP earlier this school year. Those guiding principles included consistency, differentiation, keeping the Plan simple, and recognizing success. The Committee discussed similar guiding principles for its work the remainder of the school year. The following guiding principles were suggested:

- Communicate CSC meeting dates, agendas, and action on a regular basis
- Track progress on SIP goals
- Collaborate with PTA, FRED, and teachers in support of SIP goals
- Contribute to a school culture shift that students, parents, teachers and community members can identify

Ms. Christy announced that she plans to prepare a monthly update on SIP progress, separate from the newsletter, for distribution to parents in the Thursday folders. She will submit it to the CSC members for review and comments prior to distribution.

IV. **Miscellaneous**

The Committee discussed the success of the school bond issue in the recent elections. Ms. Christy does not know when Edison will receive the funds for the fire suppression system on the second floor and other improvements planned for Edison. She recommended that a parent write a letter to the District to find out when the school will receive the improvements.

Action Item: Prepare correspondence to District Facilities department regarding status of fire suppression system.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 p.m.