

## CSC Meeting – December 9, 2008

**In attendance:** Heidi Stone, Bruce Holland, Leane Poate, Pat Mauser, Kathy Kelly, Mike Adamson, Kent Burger, Zack Bastoky, Grace Hopley, Lisa Freedberg and Stacey Shigaya.

### Reports

**Greening Committee** – The committee will try to get more families involved after the first of the year. The committee will talk with DPS re: procedures for getting trash receptacles, etc. In addition, the Student Council plans to have different classes be responsible for different parts of the school when the weather is nicer.

**PTA** – The cookie exchange was a success last week. The next big event is ECE/Kindergarten registration in mid-January. There are 6 more E books which need to be sold by Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.

**SPiE** – The November meeting tied up loose ends re: fulfilling grant requests. SPiE is also waiting to hear on the mill levy contribution to technology. The auction planning has begun. Sam Hanson and Stacey Shigaya are co-chairs. The event will be on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:00 pm to 12 midnight. While holidays were considered when choosing the date, the determining factor was the availability of the facility (Hyatt Regency – Tech Center).

**Safety** – Peach Street seems to be running smoothly, but there will always be traffic and parking issues, especially when the weather is bad (ie double parking, waving kids across the middle of the street, etc.). People are parking in the front of the school in the morning, which is designated for bus parking only. It was suggested that we talk with Peggy Lehmann, our city council woman, re: city-ordered signs; repaint curbs; police patrols.

**Community** – no concerns this month.

**Parent** – It was requested that parents need weekly communication from the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class that currently has a substitute teacher.

Is the Super Citizen program still on track – yes, the assembly will be in Jan; parameters/qualifications for eligible students will be developed by the Student Council. The teachers will soon decide on a uniform and consistent way of choosing the Super Citizens.

Several parents have expressed concerns re: lack of communication from the school and the large 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and Kindergarten class sizes. M. Burger reminded us that one Kindergarten class has six hours of para time and the other class has seven hours of para time. There are not enough Kindergarteners to qualify for another teacher/classroom, and we don't have room for another classroom. The third grade classes each have four hours of para time, and Mrs. Gilbert's ½ HGT split has additional para time since she has 28 students. Parents should be encouraged to speak directly to their child's teacher about specific concerns. Parents of older students can volunteer in the younger classrooms when the need arises.

It was suggested that we have a community forum in the fall - maybe in November – to address concerns and potential misinformation, and another forum can be conducted in the spring (April).

**Teacher** – Teachers have received wonderful support from parents in the classroom, especially when teachers are ill or have to be out for family emergencies. This community is caring and concerned and teachers appreciate the support.

RIF distribution will be on Monday; volunteers are already lined up; each student gets a free book. There will be two more distributions throughout year.

**Principal** – Parents should walk the halls to see the great art work, student writing and PE/wellness displays. Students are using the new Patch horse in the gym, are improving their writing skills.

We have interviewed candidate for the open 2<sup>nd</sup> grade position and are checking references on the top choice. Mr. Burger will make an announcement once he receives approval from the district. There have been many quality substitutes in classroom with a consistent set of lesson plans thanks to the assistance of Judy Malouf, Zack Bastoky and Anne O’Sullivan. Mr. Burger will update the parents in this week’s Thursday folder.

#### **Discussion of ECE Expansion Opportunity**

A year ago, DPS expanded its ECE program with the creation of the Denver Preschool Project (DPP). Mr Burger recently received an email from rep Cheryl Caldwell re: expanding our ECE program at Southmoor, which may include the addition of dry (no water) modular units to accommodate older students who would be displaced by the addition of more ECE students in the building (three and four year olds would need to be placed in rooms inside the bldg). Kathy Kelly, our current ECE teacher, and Mr. Burger have been discussing the pros and cons of this opportunity.

The potential expansion could involve adding 20 full-day ECE students OR having two full-day ECE classes of 20 students each. This potential expansion would start in the 2009 – 2010 school year.

ECE is regulated by city, state and district laws and policies re: space and staffing. There must be a 1:10 teacher/student ratio at all times. For full day programs, there must be a 20 minute rest period on mats with two feet of space around the mat, as well as lunch and snack time. The teacher must be CPR certified and the classroom must have running water.

A survey could be conducted to see what the ECE needs are at the school and among the parents of the current students. Mr. Burger will be speaking with the teachers and getting their feedback on the opportunity to expand the ECE program.

Benefits of expanding the ECE program:

- ECE would be available to more four year olds
- Full-day ECE would be available
- The program is funded by the DPP; although Southmoor would need to pay for about two-hours of break/lunch/planning time

Drawbacks to expanding the ECE program:

- We may pick up ECE students who are not neighborhood kids who we would not have room for as Kindergarteners (if the enrollment trend of the past several years continues). Currently about 2/3 of the 40 ECE students live in the neighborhood; in past years there were more ECE students who choiced into the school.
- Increasing the number of ECE students who live in the neighborhood would also increase the number of Kindergarten students for the following year. We have had large Kindergarten classes for the past several years, and do not need to add to this challenge.
- The additional classrooms would impact time allotted specials, staffing, room allocations, for the entire school (eg each current specials class would need to take a 10-15 minute decrease in its class time to accommodate the two additional ECE classes)
- Other schools in the district have found the policies difficult to adhere to (eg teachers have not been getting planning periods or lunch breaks).
- By adding more students, we would be placing more stress on an already-full building.

It was the concensus of the group that we leave the current ECE program as is and opt out of the DPP.

### **SAR Report**

Mr. Burger shared the results of the School Accountability Record. Southmoor's Overall Academic Performance on State Assessments rating was "Excellent" and our Academic Growth was rated "Typical" ie on track. The school also met all 16 of its Adequate Yearly Progress goals. Copies of the report will be sent to Southmoor near the end of Decembers and will then be sent home in Thursday folders

**The next CSC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 6:15 pm. The main topics of discussion will be the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and budget, if available.**

**Snacks – Heather Jackson; drinks – Pat Mauser; Timekeeper; Zack Bastoky; Facilitator - Bruce Holland; Secretary – Pat Mauser**