

CSC Minutes – September 9, 2008

In attendance: Kent Burger, Zack Bastoky, Grace Hopley, Heidi Stone, Anne O'Sullivan, Bruce Holland, Leane Poate, Stephanie Stoetzer (Greening Committee), Lisa Freedberg, Stacey Shigaya and Mike Adamson.

CSC Roles/Roster

Mr. Burger distributed the roster/ contact information for the CSC members.

Committee Reports

Greening Committee

Stephanie Stoetzer, representing the Greening Committee, announced that volunteers will be cleaning up the grounds on Thursday and Friday to prepare for the Moose Walk this Saturday, September 13th. After the Moose Walk, she suggests we look into the funding of the Greening Committee, identify and prioritize the maintenance that needs to be done in and around the school grounds and make plans for the upkeep of the grounds. In addition, the following items were discussed:

- DPS Grounds will be coming out by the end of week to fix the sprinkler system.
- It was suggested that each class could be assigned a time frame to clean the grounds in order to include the students in the maintenance and ownership of the school grounds.
- We need more trash cans for the schools grounds; decorative ones were suggested. Full receptacles also need to be emptied.
- There is a budget in the SPiE account for greening of the school grounds. Recommendations for using the funds can be brought to CSC for discussion/approval.
- Students have been asked to use sidewalks and stay out of the garden area.
- A weekly schedule can be implemented to sweep chips back into the play area. This could be a duty for the Student Council.
- Facility Management staff is aware of the inquiry to clean up the school grounds.
- Mr. Burger would like to use the mayor's One in a Million Tree program for 5th Grade Continuation again this year.
- The letters that have been painted on the black top are incomplete.

PTA

Sale of Entertainment Book is going on now until October 3rd. They will also be on sale at the Moose Walk.

The Sally Foster campaign runs September 26th through October 16th. A Sally Foster display will also be at the Moose Walk.

The board needs a President-Elect, Historian and Legislative Liaison ASAP. Emergency election nominations will be requested this week, with the election to be held on on October 7th.

SPiE

The Moose Walk is this Saturday, September 13th at 3:00 pm. The committee has been working very hard to make this another successful event.

Teacher grants are due on September 17th.

Teachers

Student Council will be headed by Zack Bastoky and Joyce Rosenblum. It will begin after the 5th graders return from Balarat on September 10th.

Benchmarks are in process.

Curriculum Night was successful. There were many positive comments from parents about the new format, which allowed parents with more than one student to spend adequate time in each child's classroom.

It was proposed that teachers living outside the school district who have elementary-age students be allowed to enroll their children at Southmoor. Last year, Slavens Elementary was told by DPS that the district would not change enrollment eligibility rules, but Slavens could make that decision on their own as a school community. Benefits: this would be a way to thank the teachers without spending any money. Mr. Burger will contact Slavens principal Kurt Seybold and DPS School Board member Bruce Hoyt to get the details. Lisa Freedberg will communicate with the teacher contact at Slavens.

Parent-teacher conferences be conducted from 4 - 8 pm on October 27th and 28th.

Parent

Halloween - Since school is closed on Halloween, there will not be a school-wide celebration.

Super Citizen - This event will occur three times this year. The assembly will be simplified from previous years. Teachers will get the input of the Student Council regarding how to choose the Super Citizen in each classroom.

5th Grade Continuation – In order to involve more staff and make the event special for the 5th Graders, this program will be held in the evening on May xx.

Safety

Mr. Bazz, Mrs. Fields and Mr. Burger have been working on the flow of the pick up/drop off loop. Letter were passed out to parents who were not using the lanes correctly (ie not following the rules to drive in one direction). Letters were also put on cars on Peach Street whose drivers left their cars unattended. The committee needs to concentrate on safety around the perimeter of the building and get parents involved to enforce the rules. Other issues discussed:

- Student Council could train 5th graders to be Safety Patrol, although this could be a liability issue with DPS. These students could monitor other students and help them to follow safety rules (ie cross the street at the crosswalk, etc). Students would need parent permission to leave class a few minutes early to do this.
- Middle school students could also assist in school safety. Three to four students would be needed. We could contact the National Jr Honor Society at Hamilton Middle School since these students are required to perform four hours of community service a month.
- Parents/adults should monitor parents; students (eg Student Council members) should monitor fellow students.

- Mr. Burger will post signs along Peach Street instructing drivers to stay in their cars.

School Satisfaction Survey

The School Satisfaction Survey is conducted at the end of each school year by the district. We reviewed the survey results from the 2007 – 2008 school year. While the results were very favorable overall, the following items received the least favorable results: safety/discipline and school culture (student ratings) and teacher instruction/communication (parent ratings). These items will be addressed in the SIP.

How can we get more parents to respond to the district survey? We can explain how data is used and why it is important to Southmoor (ie. we use the results in the School Improvement Plan). We can also ask Jasmine Divine to help non-English speaking families fill out the survey.

CSAP Data Review / School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Response to Instruction (RTI) has been initiated. Judy Malouf, our Humanities Facilitator, and Mr. Burger meet with the instructional teams each Thursday for 45 minutes. They look at student data and bodies of evidence (e.g. Direct Reading Assessment (DRA), writing samples, etc.). Each teacher has a mini-data board to identify and track student achievement. Students are placed at one of the following three level: Core Level = student is performing at or above grade level; Targeted/Strategic Level = student is partially proficient (ie needs small group instruction), Intensive Level = student is performing below expectations (ie needs specific instructional assistance). The purpose of this process is to ensure that each student receives the intervention they need. Instructional strategies are discussed with the teams. These records are kept for reading, writing and math.

In order to address student achievement, the following changes were made for the current school year: smaller class sizes, independent traditional fourth and fifth grade classrooms, more para time (ie kindergarten level = 5 more hours per day) and meetings with grade level teachers.

CSAP data was presented to the group. The staff will look at discrepancies among groups to work toward the goal that all students perform at or above grade level. The staff has also set measureable goals and are working on the SIP.

Southmoor has achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 07-08 school year. AYP is a federal designation.

The next CSC meeting will be held on October 14th at 6:15 pm. The main topic will be the school discipline plan.