

Southwest Advisory Council

<http://myschoolonline.com/md/swadvisory>

Meeting Minutes – February 2002 – Baltimore Highland Elementary

Topic: Special Education



In Attendance:

Samuel Macer
Lisa Orens (Vice Chair)
Joseph Pallozzi (Chair)
Alana Wase
Tracey Weinkam

Absent:

Dawn Baker
Jane Davis
Carl Klein
Deray McKesson
Anita Newkirk
Marquita Saunders
Sabria Smith

Meeting Opened by Joseph Pallozzi at 7:00pm.

Meeting Attendance: 22

Open Session: Special Education

- Presenters: Linda Schwier, Ron Boone
- Overview of special education – where to find resources and answers to questions.
- Two areas of focus – compliance with laws and quality of instruction.
- School Cluster Contact: Margine Fundt, Landsdowne/Catonsville, 887-3660.
- Teacher Assessment Training: Woodcock Johnson.
- Special Education Resource Center: Jean Constandine.
- Where to go for help:
 - Parental Safeguard handout (federally required).
 - Casual pursuit via teacher/student support team.
 - Formal team meeting (mandatory scheduling within 30 days).
 - When school and family can't agree, school must meet federal, state and county guidelines – parent has rights via due process procedure.
- If school can't meet full inclusion needs the following possibilities are considered:
 - Partial inclusion.
 - Self-contained special education classes.
 - Clusters within school clusters.
 - Special schools such as Maiden Choice (severely handicapped).
 - Referral to non-public placement (rare).
- Need more resources and training for regular classroom teachers.

Closed Session:

- Seeking feedback on school calendar.
- Recommendation for a new student to sit on Advisory Board from Western.
- Student Concern (Ms. Wase): Bathrooms at Western in very poor condition. Alana to
 - prepare letter and Joe Pallozzi to discuss with Dr. Milbourne.
- Advisory Council can attend PTA meetings to obtain feedback to bring back to the advisory.
- Dr. Hairston may be scheduled to attend a meeting at Woodmoor next year.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dawn Baker, Secretary

cc: All Meeting Attendees
Mr. Kennedy
Dr. Milbourne
Ms. Zepp

Southwest Advisory Council

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Meeting Minutes – March 2002 – Westchester Elementary

In Attendance:

Dawn Baker
Jane Davis
Carl Klein
Samuel Macer
Anita Newkirk
Lisa Orens (Vice Chair)
Joseph Pallozzi (Chair)
Alana Wase
Tracey Weinkam

Absent:

Deray McKesson
Marquita Saunders
Sabria Smith

Meeting Opened by Joseph Pallozzi at 7:00pm.

Meeting Attendance: 30

Open Session:

- Presenter: Dr. Hairston, Baltimore County – An Untapped Reservoir.
- Baltimore County Public School System is the larger employer in the county.
- No Child Left Behind Act – 2001:
 - Comes with largest increase ever in financial aid and sets place requirements.
- New boundary study to be approved at next Board of Education meeting.
- Minority achievement gap – what is being done to close the gap:
 - Grassroots effort to bring the people of the community together to embrace each other.
- Equity plans:
 - Southwest area actually benefited the most this year via appropriate staffing.
 - Resources such as teachers and materials (in some areas an upgrade to quality of staff).
- Special education:
 - Funds come from the federal government.
 - Need to qualify as to why we need funds.
 - Funds have decreased over a 30 year period
- Parents must stand shoulder-to-shoulder and speak out when children misbehave.
- Children should be able to read by the age of 3 as they do in Barbados.
- Lack of student religious affiliations seen as a detriment.

Closed Session:

- 2% teacher raises – contact parents and ask them to contact Mr. Ruppberger prior to his budget submission. 38% of teachers in Baltimore County have a masters degree plus 30 credits.
- Technology funding – reach out to parents on this matter as well. Ask them to contact Mr. Ruppberger regarding budgeting for classroom phones and computers.
- Only 67% of schools have access to internet.
- Small number of attendees at budget hearing.
- Baltimore County has the shortest instruction day in the state.

Next Meeting:

April 17, 2002, 7:00pm, Woodlawn Senior High
Speech and Debate Team/Elected Officials

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dawn Baker, Secretary

cc: All Meeting Attendees

Mr. Kennedy

Dr. Milbourne

Ms. Zepp