

Southeast Area Advisory Council Minutes Meeting

Date: 11 November 2003

Location: Dundalk High School

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Boyd Crouse.
2. Those in attendance were: Ms. Bonnie Saul, Mr. Bill Bafitis, Mr. Bud Staigerwald, Ms. Corina Cotsaris, Mr. Stephen Crum, Ms. Shawtair Thompson, Mr. Rick Miller, Ms. Sandra Skordales, Mr. Boyd Crouse, Mr. Bob Kemmery, and Mr. Bob Berkshire.
3. Approximately 150 parents and teachers were in attendance.
4. A three-part presentation was presented by Dr. Hairston, Dr. Jerry Dalton, and Mr. Bob Kemmery on the Baltimore County School System.
 - a. Dr. Hairston suggested that by linking education with business we can better prepare students for the future.
 - b. Dr. Hairston outlined changes that have taken place in the County School system over the last decade. Some of the changes include:
 1. Baltimore County's population has increased by 9 per cent over the last decade.
 2. Minority population has increased by 8 per cent over the last decade.
 3. Median income has increased by 16 per cent over the last decade.
 4. Student population increased by 25 per cent over the last decade.
 5. Dr. Hairston proudly acknowledged that Baltimore County's *Blueprint for Progress*, a document that is closely aligned with "No Child Left Behind" legislation, was issued three years prior to "No Child Left Behind" legislation.
 - c. Dr. Jerry Dalton spoke to the audience concerning "No Child Left Behind" legislation. Some of the topics he covered were:
 1. Adequate Yearly Progress
 2. Maryland School Assessment
 3. Accountability
 4. High expectancy levels for each child
 5. Closing the achievement gaps
 6. Focus on individual child
 - d. Mr. Kemmery gave a presentation on BCPS and Southeast Area
 1. 21 of 22 Southeast Area Schools exceeded the 3rd grade 2003 benchmarks. 16 of 22 exceeded the 2005 intermediate goals.
 2. All Southeast Area middle schools exceeded the 8th grade benchmarks.
 3. 3 of 4 Southeast Area High Schools exceeded the 10th grade benchmarks
 - e. Question and Answer Session:

1. Q. Business owners provide incentives for achieving goals; do School Administrators receive incentives for achieving goals?
A. Due to the large number of bargaining units it is difficult to provide merit type incentives, however, other incentives such as monetary incentives for recruiting highly trained teachers, discount moving services, and low interest loans to teachers.
2. Q. One indicator of a healthy school system is parental involvement. Involvement is high at the elementary level, however it drops off as you go to the higher grades. Are efforts being made to increase parental involvement? A. Yes, we are actively taking steps to increase parental involvement. Effective education involves a partnership between educators and parents.
3. Q. Parallel enrollment is an important program which does not appear in any of the metrics used to measure school performance. Will the parallel enrollment numbers be included in metric used to measure school performance? A. Parallel enrollment is an important program and efforts will be made to include these numbers in school performance metrics.
4. Q. Proper compensation must be provided teachers in order to keep them employed in Baltimore County. How are we working to improve compensation? A. Efforts are being made to improve teacher salaries, however, sometimes ancillary other factors such as improvements in working conditions are just as important as salary increases. We are making every effort to ensure that teachers are receiving the proper support.
5. Q. Why do we have so many half days? A. The calendar committee maps out the calendar 1 year in advance. 180 days of instruction are mandated by law. Half days are frequently used in elementary schools for parental conferences; however, the calendar committee is already being tasked to look at this.
- f. Dr. Hairston said that nothing stays the same. If we are not moving ahead we are falling behind. The good old days are gone. The presentation concluded at 8:50 pm with Dr. Hairston, Dr. Dalton and Mr. Kemmery remaining to talk with parents and teachers.
- g. The business session began at 9:10pm.
- h. Lauren Magnuson approached the Committee and asked for Committee representation on a committee tasked to re-write the Board of Education's Policy on Parental Involvement.
- i. Mr. Luis Borunda, recommended by Ms. Denise Gilbert was presented to the committee for membership on the committee. His resume was given to the committee and will be forwarded to the board for approval.
- j. Correspondence: no issues
- k. Budget: A letter summarizing the pre-budget hearing results was forwarded to the Board of Education.

- l. Old Business: A trifold has been produced to outline purposes and objectives of the advisory councils. A web page link has been made for the Advisory Councils which can be accessed from the Baltimore County School web page.
- m. January 14, 2004, New Town High School will host a Joint Area Advisory Council Meeting at 7 pm. Will discuss Advisory Council issues.
- n. New Business: A volunteer was asked for the Ethics Review Panel/Commission from the Southeast Area Advisory Committee.
- o. Mr. Kemmery interviewed Gov. Ehrlich and this will appear on the Education Channel (Channel 73).
- p. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.