

Minutes
SW Education Advisory Meeting
April 21, 2004

Council Attendees: Jane Davis, Sharon Loving, Dr. Richard Milbourne, Sam Macer, Anita Newkirk, Joseph Pallozzi, Deb Phelps

Others in attendance: Don Weglein (Western Principal), Deb Bittner (Catonsville MS Principal)

Tour begun approximately 7:10 pm.

Meeting called to order at 7:50 pm by Joe Pallozzi.

Dr. Milbourne introduced Don, Principal of Western School of Technology, and thanked him for hosting, which included a sampling from the Culinary Arts program.

Financial Aid Presentation begun approximately 8:05 pm

Kristina Boxley, Guidance Department Chairperson at Catonsville HS presented on financial aid. She hoped to stress two (2) points: it is a parental/family responsibility to pay for college as scholarships are not an entitlement, and all financial possibilities must be exhausted.

Financial Aid consists of scholarships, grants, loans, and employment opportunities. Types of Need-Based Aid include (1) Gift Aid – Grants (Pell, State, Institutional) and Scholarships (State, Institutional, Private) and (2) Self-help Aid – Loans [Stafford (formerly Guaranteed Student Loan), Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS), Private] and Employment (work-study).

Definition of “Need” is: ****Cost of Attendance – Expected Family Contribution = Financial Need****
Cost of attendance is not just tuition, room and board but also includes transportation, books, supplies, equipment, personal expenses and any additional fees. Therefore, need varies based on the cost of attendance – the more expensive the school, the larger the financial need. When inquiring about financial aid at a particular school, most people ask, “What scholarships are available?” Kristina recommends that parents ask, “What is the percentage of financial need that is being met for students?”

Parents have the primary responsibility to pay for their child’s education. Students also have a responsibility to contribute to their educational costs. Families should be evaluated in their present financial condition as adjustment can be made. A family’s ability to pay for educational costs must be evaluated in an equitable and consistent manner, recognizing that special circumstances can and do affect ability to pay education costs. To achieve this, the Federal Methodology created by Congress is the formula used to determine Expected Family Contribution (EFC) via the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). The FAFSA should be completed after January 1 of each year and can be completed by paper application or on-line (on-line is now the preferred method). According to Kristina, the biggest mistake families make is to delay in filing the FAFSA. She recommends using the previous years’ tax return information (e.g., in January 2004, used year end 2002 tax information) and indicate “based on last year’s information” on the form. Kristina recommends that a child’s name be removed from any assets (e.g., savings accounts) about one year before completing the FAFSA; a larger percentage is expected for family contribution from students’ own assets than from those of the parents.

In addition to the FAFSA, some private institutions may require the CSS Profile (a College Board form). The fee for this form will change in accordance with the number of schools to which a student has applied. Some institutions may require additional forms.

All scholarship sources should be exhausted including HS guidance counselor, College/University Financial Aid Office, athletic/talent scholarships, private source scholarships, senators/government officials, parents' or students' employer, ROTC scholarships, state scholarship sources, www.fastweb.com.

Speaker portion adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Business meeting called to order at 9:10 pm by Joe Pallozzi.

Attendees: Deb Bittner , Jane Davis, Sharon Loving, Dr. Richard Milbourne, Sam Macer, Anita Newkirk, Joseph Pallozzi, Deb Phelps, Don Weglein

1. Old business:

- ⌚ Advisory Council website is up and running. www.bcps.org/community/educational/edu_advisory_council/default.asp
- ⌚ Reminder from Joe Pallozzi that the budget is still in process.
- ⌚ Request from Lisa that all members continue thinking about officer elections for next year.
 - ③ Reminder from Joe that several members are leaving after this year (Jane is moving out of district, Joe's last term expires this year end, Nick Camp is seeking appointment to serve as student representative on BOE). Joe recommends that Lisa continue as chair with Sam as Vice Chair and Sharon continuing as Secretary.
 - ③ Recommendation from Jane that email continue to be used to disseminate information and that PTA presidents be contacted to request a commitment to send a PTA rep to each SWEAC meeting.
- ⌚ Notified by Dr. Milbourne that there is a student from Woodlawn who will begin serving next year. Joe requested assistance from Don in recruiting student rep from Western.

2. New Business:

- ⌚ New Teacher induction program scheduled for August 17-19 at Perry Hall HS.
- ⌚ Topic suggestions made for next years' meetings included:
 - ③ Dr. Hairston as guest speaker (by Joe)
 - ③ Overpopulation of schools vs. districting and how full day kindergarten has an impact (by Jane)
 - ③ Jane further recommends that meetings be advertised in the *Catonsville Times*
- ⌚ Suggestion made that consideration be given to Sam's idea that each member of the SWEAC plan/arrange a meeting next year.
- ⌚ Future meetings:
 - ③ May 2004 all council meeting to be held at Patapsco HS so SWEAC members may want to consider carpooling. Sharon will get directions.
 - ③ June 9, 2004 meeting at SW office sunroom for planning and elections.
- ⌚ Anita questioned where the new MS will be districted as she has heard it will be neither NW nor SW. Dr. Milbourne indicated information was distributed to SW Academy parents regarding the site found on Windsor Mill Rd where soil testing is now occurring. An update session with Planning has been arranged by the SW Academy PTA to be held May 13 at 3:30 pm in the library.

Business meeting adjourned approximately 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Loving
Secretary, SW Education Advisory Council