

Minutes
SW Education Advisory Meeting
Hosted at Edmondson Heights Elementary School
April 20, 2005

Council Attendees: Brian Bailey, Elizabeth Lee, Sharon Loving, Lisa Orens, Debbie Phelps

Others in attendance: Edmondson Heights teachers [Kathy McPherson, Kristin Nelson], Lori Andrusic (ELOB), Barbara Davis, (Edmondson Heights AP)

Individualized, student-led tours. Begun at arrival, focused on computer lab and newly renovated library, completed by 7:30 pm.

Opened by Lisa Orens at 7:35 pm. Apology was given for lack of attendance with explanation that unfortunately it can seldom be predetermined. She explained that Dr. Milbourne recommended the topic as recognition of positive things that are occurring at schools in the southwest area. Sam Macer was not able to be present due to a recognition reception for volunteers with 1000+ service hours.

Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound (ELOB) Presentation begun at 7:38 pm.
Barbara Davis provided brief history of facility built in 1956. Several years ago, a committee from the school selected three possible programs for consideration and the faculty unanimously voted for ELOB. A proposal was submitted for CSR funding which once approved, provided the school \$300,000 over a 3-year period. Jan Swam was previously at Edmondson Heights, but the ELOB School Designer is currently Lori Andrusic.

Lori opened with a reading. ELOB is a sister organization to the nationally recognized Outward Bound program. Edmondson Heights has over 700 students and approximately 40 teachers involved with the program. Kathy McPherson (4th grade) indicated her favorite part of instruction to be the “showcase” where the students have the opportunity to present their learning to family and believes the ideal of requiring students to be responsible for their own learning has been key. She has benefited professionally from the program, including the opportunity to attend off-site leadership training in Boston. Kristin Nelson is new to Edmondson Heights this year but believes the program to be beneficial. When asked by Elizabeth Lee how difficult it was to integrate the program with BCPS curriculum, Kristin indicated it was easy to make the necessary connections to both the Social Studies and Science curriculum. It is the belief that the program has been a contributing factor to increased test scores.

Lisa Orens inquired whether funding was ongoing and Barbara explained that the grant would be ending this year. While many of the ideals of the program will remain, and elements will always be available to Edmondson Heights through ELOB as a “spirit school”, it is envisioned that much of the off-site training will be discontinued as the funding both for substitutes and travel may not be available.

Lori closed with a reading expressing ELOB ideal that “we are crew not passengers”.

Presentation concluded at 8:15 pm.

Business meeting called to order at 8:27 pm by Lisa Orens.

Attendees: Brian Bailey, Elizabeth Lee, Sharon Loving, Sam Macer, Lisa Orens, Debbie Phelps

1. New Business:

- ⌚ Lisa distributed copies of the Minority Achievement Report (system wide book, and school sample).
- ⌚ Lisa indicated she has received an invitation to the New Teacher Introduction Program to be held August 16-18 at Perry Hall HS and extended the invitation to any interested in attending.
- ⌚ Lisa provided an update on the area chairs work session with the BOE held April 12. Due to the limited number of volunteers and the over extended need to attend meetings, consideration is being given to restructuring the EACs. This will be discussed in more detail at the all council meeting May 4 but may not require as many officers in the future as one of the primary goals would be to centralize the councils and reduce the number of meetings require of a limited number of volunteers.
- ⌚ Sharon provided a calendar committee update, indicating that a finalize copy was not available at the conclusion and that committee members would likely see the proposal provided to Dr. Hairston at the same time as Dr. Hairston.
- ⌚ Lisa advised that the BOE capital budget hearing would be held May 25.
- ⌚ Elizabeth questioned why there is no elementary Magnet program in the SW area and inquired as to how that could be changed. Lisa indicated this had been discussed at the November meeting held jointly with NWEAC at Sudbrook; she suggested it be mentioned at the capital budget hearing.
- ⌚ Michael Kennedy will soon be retiring from the BOE as his length of service is completed.

2. Old business:

- ⌚ Lisa indicated that Dr. Hairston would not be available May 19 but she has currently reserved either May 26 or June 1. It was agreed by all present that, while it is always a great opportunity to have him in the area, perhaps it would better serve the community at this time to schedule him next school year.
- ⌚ Lisa provided reminder that nominations need to be determined for next year's officers. She would like to relinquish the responsibility she has had for several years. Sharon suggested that in accordance with recently adopted bylaws, Lisa should no longer serve as chair since she has had two terms.
- ⌚ Discussion of possible topics for future meeting included the following:
 - ③ Debbie indicated she and Dr. Milbourne would like to have area members visit the newly opened Bridge Center in Lansdowne and that perhaps a meeting could be hosted there, maybe even jointly with NW since this center is scheduled to service students in both of these areas. The Bridge Center is temporary (up to 15 days) for students arriving in the area with incomplete paperwork for regular admission.
 - ③ Brian suggested changes scheduled for Lansdowne MS and HS based on recent grant approval.
 - ③ Sam provided reminder that Dr. Milbourne agreed at a previous meeting to provide a "state of the southwest area" address early in the 2005-06 school year.
 - ③ Debbie recommended involvement in the community kick-off at Lansdowne might assist in solicitation of more members.
- ⌚ Sam relayed a question regarding input to the process of selecting a principal that he received from a Woodbridge ES parent. Debbie Phelps replied that there was a time when panels of school stakeholders and staff would be able to participate in the interview process for administrators in schools but that doesn't occur any more. It is the superintendent who has the responsibility to appoint our administrators and then input and approval is provided by the Board of Education. Dr. Hairston "takes great pride in selecting the right person for the right job". She stated that letters could be written to both the SW area office and Dr. Hairston to supply input and that Sam contact the SW area office to follow up with Dr. Milbourne.

Business meeting adjourned approximately 9:19 pm.

Next meeting scheduled as joint council meeting for May 4 at ESS at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Loving
Secretary, SW Education Advisory Council