

**Central Area Education Advisory Council  
Riderwood Elementary School  
February 26, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

- Meeting Minutes recorded by Sharon Elliott
- Initiated meeting as “business type” meeting to discuss upcoming topics and meetings of the Council
- Central Area Attendees: Laura Mullen, Sharon Elliott, Lyle Patzkowsky, Frank Thomas, Laurie Taylor-Mitchell, Melanie Brockman

Opening

- introduction of attending Board member, Frances Harris

Note of Future Meetings

- March 9, 2009 at Padonia Elementary School (2009/2010 special education staffing plan)
- March 26, 2009 at Loch Raven Academy (Central Area)
- April 23, 2009 at Padonia Elementary School (Central Area)

Terry S. Parish, PTA President of Dulaney High School

- issue – school safety
- 1/7/09 fatal accident; student hit by car when crossing street
- community and parent concern
- plan – create other and additional pedestrian crossings
- contacted Baltimore county Bureau of Traffic and Engineering and Transportation Planning (Jim Kordanski – spelling?)

Laurie Taylor-Mitchell

- Ridgely Middle School climate control
- Ridgely A/C: health issues; heat stress; no heat closure policy; no heat monitoring policy
- renovations enhanced the problem: window situation, lower ceilings
- need school closing policy for heat

Jean Suda, member of Dulaney SIT

- change in registration for classes next year
- sophomore World History class; GT option gone
- now Honors/AP
- issues: (1) inappropriate degree of rigor for most 15 year olds; (2) kids afraid to take AP; (3) affects choice of rigor in other classes; (4) inhibits natural progression of rigor in social studies; (5) students taking on too much rigor; (6) what if pressure from former GT parents to increase rigor of honors; (7) lack of parent input before hand
- Where did this policy come from and why?

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

- came from Blueprint for Progress; focus on all students and access to all
- most APs for 11-12th graders
- support system put in place to support success of students
- AP advantage to students while GT not recognized by colleges

Attendee Comment: taking away GT at middle school level

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

not true; offer to all students with differentiation within the classroom

Attendee Comments:

- several issues for high school, middle school
- GT not a reward → maximize experience
- GT loss not spoken about to parents
- shift all kids to GT curriculum
- What is bigger picture? Where is this coming from?
- Why no parental involvement?
- not developmentally appropriate for 14-15; for some the rigor of AP is too much; need appropriate study skills, work habits first

Attendee Comment: Why do this in the Central Area?

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

successful student population

Attendee Comment: Where does this de-coupling come from?

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

- research; other systems moved in this direction with success
- MD contract with ETS College Board has no role in this
- Towson High School (THS): two years ago THS combined classes (honors for all, no standard); common teacher planning time; staff development provided; instruction at highest quality possible/critical thinking skills; talked with THS students—bolstered their capabilities
- 25 kids to a class

Attendee Comments:

How can you eliminate the GT program when it is mandated by State law?

What do parents need to do to change this?

What is driving this change?

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

can move into AP; advantages for going to college

Attendee Comments:

- Why were parents not involved?
- Any consideration to make it GT/AP instead of AP?
- GT students learn differently; teachers need training!!! (as mentioned by head of GT Council)
- more un-caring students/trouble in classrooms

Response from Lyle Patzkowsky:

- with increased instruction, standard students challenged to succeed, not create classroom problems
- couple years ago – curriculum audit; outcomes need to align programs, increase rigor and work out of standard classes

Attendee Comments:

- How about something in writing about this pilot program?
- Who started this?
- Worry--- What recourse do we have as parents?
- would like to see Towson High School student panel at a near future Central Area meeting to see how they really feel about it
- Can implementation be postponed for a year?
- Parent—use central area committee to let parents know ahead and be a forum to discuss before implementation for stuff like this
- Want a copy of the pilot program before next Central Area meeting