

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee
March 18, 2008 CIAC Minutes

Members Present: Meg Oehrlein - Discovery, Linda Carr - Talahi, Lori Chlan - Kennedy, Nikki Kinsley - North, Kathy Dahlberg - Westwood, Noel Shughart - Apollo, Julia Espe and Karen Hommerding

SITE COUNCIL MEETING REPORTS

APOLLO

- Discussed the *Engaging Families and Community* Indicator
 - Assigned an overall rating of "2" on the rubric
 - Expressed concern that good things do not always continue due to budget cuts and grant expirations
- Discussed the *Leadership and Governance* Indicator
 - Assigned an overall rating of "2" on the rubric
 - Site Council members felt that district systems were in place, not necessarily school systems

DISCOVERY

- Parents feel that staff learns about the diverse expectations, values and cultures of their students' families through professional development opportunities and information is shared with the parent involvement committee and parent teacher conferences.
- Parents feel that school communicates with them via school and teacher newsletters, notebooks, on-line, the parent involvement committee, telephone calls, Open Houses, parent teacher conferences, student specific letters and general correspondence.
- Parents feel that the school engages families in educational partnerships via Serving Learning Projects, R.S.V.P., VA Medical Center, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Kidstop, Junior Achievement Education Program, volunteers, working with the community and media and partnership grants received.
- Parents feel that the school uses student, family and community feedback, in the form of parent surveys, parent teacher conferences and family participation school events (Open Houses, Family Fun Nights, etc.), to form action plans.

KENNEDY

- Discussed Question #1 *Do parents feel that teachers help students learn at high levels?*
 - Discussion centered on Academic Achievement programs; site council members feel very positive that wonderful things are happening for

students and that Kennedy makes it a priority to have PTA, rather than parents, bear the cost of these opportunities

- Additional questions will be discussed at the next Site Council meeting

TALAHI

- Regrets the loss of the 21st Century Grant

WESTWOOD

- Discussed the *Engaging Families and Community* Indicator with both the Leadership Team and PTA
 - WW purposefully connects with students and has numerous community partnerships
 - With the new diversity, teachers are looking at ways to reach all parents and family groups
 - A need exists for diversity professional development that focuses on the students, their cultures and the geographies and histories of their countries

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS/IDEAS SHARED BY CIAC PARENTS

GRANTS

- Concerned about losses when grants come to an end
- Concerned about the work necessitated by grants vs. the benefits of grants
- Grant funds are held by the US Dept. of Education - concern was expressed that this money should be allocated to districts but, since it is not, districts need to apply for these monies

SCHOOL FUNDING

- PTAs/Site Councils could/should be involved in lobbying to promote school funding changes

CLIMATE SURVEY

- Would like school level feedback of survey results

WEB ACCESS TO GRADES/ASSIGNMENTS

- Parents and students enjoy this feature but are frustrated that not all buildings are providing the same access and information

BUS TRANSPORTATION

- Parents would like to see two adults on all bus runs for adequate student supervision and overall safety

SYSTEMS APPROACH TO IMPROVING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Following documents and information was shared with committee members:

- Integrated Service Delivery Model
- Continuous Improvement Cycle
- Goals Pyramid
- Past, Present and Future Continuous Improvement Efforts
- 2007-08 District 742 Site Improvement Plan
 - Parents would like District/School Improvement Plans shared with them
- Parameters of Second School Site Visit Presentations for District Administration
- 2008-2009 Proposed District Goals
 - Parents would like goals to be quantifiable
- Integration Planning Power Point
 - District is currently collecting information from Create Community, GRIP, Somali Elders, Latino families, etc.
 - March 15 Community Meeting was held at Apollo for information gathering