



Parent Advisory Committee to the Superintendent

Meeting Summary Notes: November 7, 2016

Meeting Summary Notes are intended to serve as the superintendent's reflection on the discussions that occur during advisory committee meetings. They are not intended to be exhaustive. Instead, they are intended to serve as a general record for our on-going efforts to assess our needs, determine our goals, map out our strategies, and evaluate our policies, procedures and programs. Participants should contact the superintendent if they observe any critical oversight or misinterpretation.

Participants present: Robert Tucker (AHS), Michelle Downs (SES), Tiffany Redman (CES), Jessica Bowyer (CES), Jagadamba Pandit (MVES), Mary Jane Mutispaugh (Director of Instruction), Fred Vaughan (Director of Human Resources and Pupil Personnel), Lorie Bess (Administrative Assistant), and Eugene Kotulka (Superintendent).

1. Mr. Kotulka invited participants to the Education Summit on November 30, sponsored by ACPS, Covington schools, and The Allegheny Foundation. The focus of the group is to discuss what we need to do in our area to make education a top priority. (For those who are interested in attending, there is a flyer on the division website with more details and RSVP information.)
2. Mr. Kotulka reminded participants of the community broadband meeting being held on November 15 at 6:00 p.m. at DSLCC. Broadband providers will be at the event to discuss current internet levels and determine if higher speeds are available to citizens in their specific areas.
3. Follow up from previous meeting: Mr. Kotulka reported a division wide "opt out" form would be created for parents that do not want their child's directory information or picture on the website.
4. Follow up from previous meeting: MVES bathroom schedules are still being worked on but there has been some improvement.
5. Follow up from previous meeting: Ms. Mutispaugh discussed letter grades vs. number grades for elementary report cards. She explained PowerSchool is not designed to do both. School Board Policy IZ dictates which grades are used. She noted a teacher can override the default in PowerSchool. There was concern that a student may not make honor roll because of letter grades and Ms. Mutispaugh explained the only thing that would keep a student from making honor roll would be a "U" grade. Currently, honor roll guidelines are determined by individual schools but administration will discuss creating division-wide guidelines for next year, she noted.
6. A participant reported the carnival at Sharon Elementary School was a great success and many things are planned for American Education Week.
7. A participant invited everyone to the MVES Science Fair and Family Night.
8. A participant asked why field trips vary by school for grades 3, 4, and 5. Ms. Mutispaugh replied she is in the process of developing a division-wide field trip plan that includes a variety of destinations, including local historical destinations, so that all students have similar trips.
9. A participant reported students need more STEM training. Mr. Kotulka agreed and replied he would like to develop a pilot program that would include engineers from WestRock.

10. A participant reported very positive feedback from the lockdown at the high school. He stated the staff was able to calm the students and it went very well. Mr. Kotulka stated the goal is to have 3 messages out to the parents. The first message should be there is a situation and to share as much information as we can, the second message should be an update, and the final message should be a conclusion of events.

The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 13 at 6:30 p.m.

The Allegheny County School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following have been designated as the contact regarding compliance issues associated with this non-discrimination policy and compliance with Title IX: Director of Human Resources and Pupil Personnel and Director of Assessment and Accountability. For questions and compliance with Section 504 and ADA contact the Director of Special Education. Allegheny County School Board Office, 100 Central Circle/P.O. Drawer 140, Low Moor, Virginia 24457. 540-863-1800.