

PAC Meeting Minutes

11-14-11

Lauri Calabrese, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, presented a financial planning program to the group (PMA). You can find the report online at [PMA Financial Planning Program](#) for further information. The handout was provided to all PAC members.

Topics of Interest

Should we add representatives who have students placed outside of the district to the PAC group? A guest at the PAC meeting had suggested to Dr. Shillingburg the value of having representation from parents who have children placed outside of the district. These parents are part of the district and can represent something different to the group. The group was in favor of having this additional representation. An invitation to join will be sent out from the central office to all parents with children placed out of the district. Up to two parents will be selected. If there are more than two interested, the district will hold a lottery as they do for the individual schools. The new members will be invited to attend the next meeting in February.

Dr. Shillingburg asked the group if they felt the district is communicating effectively? The group felt the communication has been fine with a lot of information shared in the weekly school email newsletters. The group felt a lot of information is placed on the website. One suggestion was instead of another district newsletter, which most would not read, to add a quarterly section to the bottom of the school newsletters with bullet points of interest and maybe links to more information. It was suggested to add the email addresses of the central office team to the bottom of the school newsletters inviting anyone with questions to email the staff directly. It was also suggested to put the report topics for the board meetings in the school newsletters. The question was also asked if there were topics that would draw them (and the community) to attend an evening meeting (town hall meeting). The group felt this would be a challenge with everyone being very busy. The only way to draw a crowd would be to focus on a specific topic that many would be interested in hearing more about, such as the finances before you would go for a referendum.

A question was asked regarding the new schedule at Park. Mr. Abraham shared the schedule was going well with the math/LA teachers happy with the additional minutes and the other content teachers not so happy with fewer minutes. The district was evaluating the change and will come to the board with recommendations early next year. Dr. Shillingburg explained the need for more math minutes and how the district made changes to meet the higher expectations of the new national standards.

A question was asked regarding the student selection of their Exploratory classes at Park. Mr. Abraham shared that students were given a survey to allow them to select either career exploration or fine arts options. For the most part, students were given their choices, but it was a tight schedule. There was discussion as to why parents were not communicated to regarding this process or the classes available. Since the options were limited, Park wanted to give the students a choice in what they selected. There was disagreement among the group as to whether parent input was needed/helpful.

Next Meeting - February 13th, 2012 (Topic) New National Common Core Standards