

Center Advisory Group Meeting
February 12, 2009

There were 21 participants including the team leads of Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Mayer and Mrs. Gaut. All programs were represented.

Introductions – Introductions were made for all those in attendance.

Field Trips (Speaker Helen Nixon)

The feedback from the parents, students, and teachers shows a lot of energy around the Boston Trip for the Math/Sci students. Mrs. Brady and Dr Toloff from Clemente will accompany Takoma Park on their field trip this year in order to live the trip and gain experience with the different activities. The Math/Sci trip and the Humanities trip will take place during the same week in the fall. The trips must still be approved by the Community Superintendent. Mrs. Nixon plans on holding a 7th grade parent meeting before the end of March, once the trips are approved to discuss exact itineraries, costs, and to answer any questions.

Additional questions and answers were given about both the NY Trip and the Boston trip throughout the meeting.

Edline (Speaker Helen Nixon)

Mrs. Nixon spoke about the “Gotcha” program that is being implemented to celebrate teachers who are using Edline well. They are looking for both parents and students to nominate teachers. In order to nominate a teacher, you can email Mrs. Nixon and she will pass it along to the appropriate personnel. The program will help show teachers how their peers are using Edline to enhance instruction and communication.

Mrs. Nixon was asked to clarify in her next message that parents can also nominate teachers.

Feedback Discussion (All in attendance):

Valerie Mayer led a discussion regarding aspects of both programs which parents really value.

- 6th Grade Phillip Merrill Trip – really helped the students understand the problems with the Bay
- Center Teams which were instituted this year. The pacing/level of instruction is now more appropriate based on what the students can achieve. For the

children who were in Elementary School HG Centers who are used to being challenged in all classes, this is more appropriate.

- The field trips which don't cost a lot of money, such as visiting the cathedral/mosque.
- The naming ceremony and getting a chance to learn about others within the program. (needs to be done by entire program, not just by classroom)
- Number of field trips which are planned
- Innovation on the part of teachers to save money
- Not assuming parents can't get children to where they need to be for the special trips.
- Changing the NY trip to the fall so that the students have plenty of time to devote to the big NY project.
- Interdisciplinary aspects of the program. The fact that Social Studies, English, and Media are all interconnected. They are able to go into topics more in depth and without boundaries.
- Can do attitude of the teachers
- Greek Festival
- Field trips directly relate to the curriculum. While the trips are fun that doesn't mean the children aren't learning.
- IDR Project – teaching students to do research, it is both rewarding and challenging.
- Shakespeare Plays – would like to see them return as full program productions
- Project such as Harper's Ferry which allow the students to explore their interest in Art. They do not have an opportunity to explore this side of themselves in school because they need to take a Foreign Language.
- All of the art projects which they complete in Media.
- Treating parents as docents and using their personal time to take the parents down to DC to show them the museums before the field trip.
- Astronomy trip
- Exposure to hands on science experiments
- Taking notes from lectures taught in 6th grade social studies
- Small group book discussions
- Amount of writing done by the students and the detailed feedback which they get from the teacher

Tabled: Geometry Math concern – *This was tabled for this meeting since it relates to what will be discussed at an upcoming parent coffee. It can be revisited at the next meeting if there are additional questions still remaining.*

Next Meeting: March 19, 2009 7-8:30pm

Action Items:

Item	To be done by

Clarify Nominating teacher for “gotcha”	Mrs. Nixon
Geometry Math Concern Tabled	