

Title I Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, April 13, 2017 @ 12:00 P.M.

Graysville Elementary School

Minutes

Parents signed in and picked up a yellow folder for this afternoon's meeting. The folders included the following documents: Welcome letter attached to the front, Agenda, Explanation of purpose for meeting, Title I Budget, Graysville Title I Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan, Catoosa County Schools Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy, Graysville Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy, Spring Survey Results Power Point presentation, 2017 Catoosa County Title I Annual Evaluation, and a meeting Evaluation form.

Mrs. Sholl, our Principal, began the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. We had seventeen people in attendance, which I think is wonderful! We opened our yellow folders and began the meeting by briefly going over the Agenda.

First, we discussed the purpose for the meeting and how this meeting will be used to approve our Parent & Family Engagement Policy for the 2017-2018 schoolyear when we get to that policy later on in the meeting.

Next, Mrs. Sholl went over our Title I budget for the year and explained how the funds were spent. Those in attendance agreed that they felt like the money had been spent well.

Next, Rebecca West, our Academic Coach, talked about our Title I Schoolwide/School Improvement Plan. She discussed what our current goals were for this year and let them know that we will be able to see if we met our goals, and determine what our goals should be focused on next year, after we get the results back from the GA Milestones test the students will take in a couple weeks. The results should be back at the end of May, and we will start deciphering the data and planning then. She reminded them that our goals drive everything we do in our Title I program from how we write our Plan, what we spend our money on, and what Title I family events we have. More than likely, we will have a literacy-based goal again next year.

Next, Regina Bacon, the District PIC, briefly talked about the upcoming DAC meeting on May 11th and the opportunity for families to come and provide input for the Catoosa County Schools Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy. An invitation was provided for those in attendance giving the time, date, location, and purpose for that meeting.

After that, Kami Leonard, Parent Involvement Coordinator, dove into the GES Parent & Family Engagement Policy for review. Each person had a color copy of the Policy so it was easy for them to note the changes that had been made. (The changes were noted in red ink). Most of the changes to the policy were simply wording - changing the title to Parent & Family Engagement, and changing where the policy said "parent" to "parent and family". The biggest change in the Policy was the section about the upcoming Title I parent and family events for the 2017-2018 school year. Instead of having four "events" like we have in the past, we will only have two events, the Wheel of Standards Booth at the Fall Festival, and (probably) a literacy family night in November. The other two "events" will be replaced with a new program we call TAPP - Teacher and Parent Partnerships. Mrs. West then stood and explained in more detail what TAPP is and how it will be implemented next year.

TAPP is a new approach to traditional Parent/Teacher Conferences. With TAPP, parents and teachers will meet as a whole "class" twice a year, and then individual parent/teacher conferences will take place once a year (or more if needed). The first TAPP meeting will be at the beginning of the year with Parent Orientation. At this first meeting, teachers will not only explain policy and procedures to the parents, but they will also have academic data to share so that parents can get a good idea of where their student is starting out academically for the year. The data will be displayed anonymously so that the parents will be able to see where their child is at compared to the rest of the class, but each family will also receive a folder individualized with their child's specific scores. In the folder, the teacher will provide the previous year's Spring benchmark scores, and the current year's beginning of the year benchmark scores so families can see if there has been a summer decline or rise. Families will then, along with the teacher, set a 60 day goal for their child on a specific foundational academic skill. The goal will be different for each student based on that student's needs. Then, the teacher will model a home activity related to that skill, and then the parents will practice the activity together. They will also be taking the materials home so they can use it as practice with their students. Around 60 days after the first TAPP meeting, parents will meet individually with the teacher for a one-on-one conference. They will discuss their child's current scores and the goal that was set and see if progress has been made. Then they may set another goal, and the teacher will give input on more ways they can help their child at home. The second TAPP meeting will be held sometime in February after the winter benchmarks and will be very similar to the first. Policy and Procedures may be briefly reviewed at this meeting, but the main focus, again, will be the student scores and goals to be set. We really feel like TAPP will be a great opportunity to foster positive relationships and better communication among parents and between teachers and parents, giving everyone more accountability and confidence in becoming more engaged in their student's academic success. And our hope is that families will realize the value in staying informed and in touch with the teacher and each other, and not being afraid to ask questions about how to help their children in areas where they may be struggling, or in areas where they need to be challenged more!

Next, Mrs. Leonard reviewed the Spring Survey Results by showing a quick power point presentation. She noted that we need to emphasize greater utilization of Parent Portal and mentioned that a plan is in the works for more training and encouragement for parents. She also

noted that GES is above the county across the board (in a positive way) when comparing the survey results with the other schools in the district. We should be very pleased with that!

After that, the floor was opened up for discussion. A parent brought out the point that we need to try and find ways to help the KK parents get more involved at the beginning of the year. Mrs. Sholl completely agreed and explained to the group that a plan has already been set in place for that. Instead of having Kindergarten Registration down at the County Office, we will be having it here, at the school, on May 2nd from 5:00 - 7:15 PM. Families will be able to come to the school for their child's screening. They will also have a chance to meet each of the kindergarten teachers, get a tour of the school, talk with other parents that are already actively involved in volunteering, meet the Parent Involvement Coordinator and visit the Family Resource Center, sample the food served in the cafeteria, and ask any questions they may have!

Finally, those in attendance approved the Parent & Family Engagement Policy and everyone was asked to please complete an evaluation form before leaving.