

Inter-School Parent Council Minutes  
September 8, 2016  
City School Administration Center  
300 Sixth Street - 3 East – Rapid City, SD 57701

The Parent Key Communicators committee met at noon on September 8, 2016 with Superintendent Dr. Lori Simon calling the meeting to order.

Attached please find a power point that Dr. Simon shared with the group. (Video has been removed due to size constraints of email delivery).

Superintendent Simon asked representatives what they feel excellence in family partnerships should look like. Responses included:

- Stronger relationships with parents through communications – use of texting and emailing as well
- PTA/school groups have parent and family involved but most events have the same small group attend
- Better communication with teachers to support their children
- Everyone needs to step up to the plate to help the children including those at home
- Need more transparency in the schools
- Break down barriers between school administrators and parents at some of the schools – principals need to know their students – parents need to feel the principal is approachable
- Parents and students should not fear retribution
- Parent satisfaction survey (this has been discussed with the Board of Education to conduct in near future)
- Should coordinate and replicate the good things that are happening – both within the school and within the district
- Staff should have good rapport with principal and co-workers, to include paras, food service, custodians and clerical staff
- It seems we have 23 individual schools instead of a school system – we need to build bridges of support and put best practices in place at all the schools
- We need to build teams and trust within our buildings

Dr. Simon has put her focus on school attendance, effective core instruction in math and reading, and graduation rates. Monitoring implementation with high fidelity in math and reading will help our students. She will also look at alternative pathways to graduation for our students.

Other comments from Dr. Simon included:

- The district is working hard on recruitment and retention for district staff.
- Budget and capital outlay discussions will be held in the near future.
- Will continue to advocate at the state level to be sure we have adequate funding for our schools.
- We cannot continue to tap our capital outlay funds to support wages as our buildings have needs that need to be addressed.
- The formation of a strategic plan will help us address our priorities and goals. The RFP for a strategic planning group to drive the district's work will be soon determined and a steering plan committee and core planning committee will be formed.

Thoughts to share and/or burning issues:

- The on-line application for after-school programs has become problematic for some programs (such as art program). This topic will be reviewed at a future study session.
- Early release Wednesdays – will they continue? The professional development task force will review best practices at our district and across the nation and bring us information on this topic.
- Lockdown at Central HS was communicated with parents and community in timely fashion.

Representatives are reminded to submit future agenda topics to Shirley at [shirley.fletcher@k12.sd.us](mailto:shirley.fletcher@k12.sd.us) or by calling 716-0327. October topic will include a listening session which Dr. Simon will ask representatives input on what they see as the district's strengths and weaknesses.

The next meeting will be held on October 13th.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Fletcher  
Senior Administrative Assistant