



Inter-School Parent Council Minutes  
October 13, 2016  
City School Administration Center  
300 Sixth Street - 3 East – Rapid City, SD 57701

The Inter-School Parent Council met at noon on October 13, 2016 with Superintendent Dr. Lori Simon calling the meeting to order. Board of Education members in attendance were Matt Stephens and Amy Policky.

Dr. Simon asked parent representatives what they felt strengths of the district were:

- Communication through website and syner-voice messages
- Partnership with Rapid Ride
- Quality of education
- Individual creativity from each building on Facebook
- Fresh change – fresh start – new energy
- Teachers are attentive to the student’s needs and try different teaching styles to help students not getting a lesson
- Resources are available at the schools
- Diverse school district – this is unique and most South Dakota schools don’t have opportunity to experience diversity
- Transparency with the community
- Teach character and social skills in classrooms
- Good leadership opportunities for students to have a voice and impact others
- Free meal programs

Challenges of the district?

- Free busing not available in Rapid Valley
- Boundaries need to be revisited with all the homes and apartments being constructed within the district
- Need schools to accommodate students in home area
- Classroom sizes
- Need gifted program
- Communication and transparency is not in all of the schools
- More assistance for teachers in Title schools
- Curriculum in some schools is very rigid/strict – allow for differentiation within classrooms
- Building culture
- See racial segregation on playgrounds – do not feel that it is necessarily the students but their outside influences
- Give staff the training they need
- Need the positive stories to overshadow negative ones
- Transition from MS to HS and found that students are not doing nearly enough writing
- Students are often “talked to” rather than “engaging” them in classroom learning
- Security system at General Beadle not being utilized – doors open

#### Burning Issues:

- Intersection of Anamosa and North Maple is a big concern – tearing down apartments – no crossing guard
- Not enough subs in the system and they are pulling paras from classrooms – Dr. Simon did share that this is a nationwide concern
- Sub training for subs in SPED and learning center
- Volunteer paperwork needs to be streamlined
- Janitorial staffing needs to return to former way – security issue not having someone in building
- Can principal training/meetings take place after hours and not during the day to keep them in the building
- Is the summer feeding grant being re-applied for – Janelle Peterson will be handling that

#### Building Updates:

- Meadowbrook just completed cookie dough fundraiser – sold \$40,000 with net proceed of \$17,000 going back to the school – New principal going great
- Horace Mann is doing a pizza fundraiser – basketball teams are started – student ambassador group has been formed to greet parents at events and assist students during the school day – many other activities at their school
- Valley View – 5<sup>th</sup> graders just finished Star Base and carnival is coming soon and will be held at East Middle School – turkey bingo
- South Canyon has the fall craft fair coming – 5<sup>th</sup> graders just finished Star Base – buddy bench was donated and book fair/pizza/family night
- Corral Drive – book fair “Blanket the school with books” – student won Red Ribbon poster contest
- Pinedale – bazaar and pie bake sale – parent volunteer group “Reinforcement Rangers” growing in numbers
- Robbinsdale – attendance winners treated to a trip to the harvest pumpkin patch
- West – attendance incentives and also “Get Caught Reading” with classroom incentives – reading project will have writing piece as part of project
- General Beadle – popcorn or pizza parties for most in attendance – bikes awarded to those with perfect attendance at the end of the year and many other activities
- North – Mrs. Talley doing great – new intercom system working – wellness day coming up for students to attend activity of their choice – construction hopefully completed by end of December

**Please note that beginning in November, there will be a white board and chart paper at the west end of the room. When you enter, please write your buildings “Happenings” and dates in this area. This way we can share with the entire group and possibly share new ideas with other schools. Bring your list!!**

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.

The next meeting will be held on November 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Fletcher  
Senior Administrative Assistant