



Inter-School Parent
Council Minutes
November 10, 2016
City School Administration Center
300 Sixth Street - 3 East – Rapid
City, SD 57701

The Inter-School Parent Council met at noon on November 10, 2016 with Superintendent Dr. Lori Simon calling the meeting to order. Board of Education member in attendance was Ron Riherd.

Dr. Simon welcomed everyone attending. She began the meeting by presenting the State of the District presentation.

Questions from the group and responses or additional comments from Dr. Simon:

- How do our scores compare regionally and nationally? It is hard to compare scores from state to state as each state might not use the same cut score and may not be using the same tests as SD does. Some states have all juniors take tests such as ACT where we have only a small portion so it is not comparing apples to apples.
- The district will look at special education attendance in the near future.
- Will continue to identify barriers that might affect our attendance rate. Example might be if a child cannot read by 3rd grade and this impacts morale, this could be an issue of why students don't come to school. This appears to be a culture in the community which parents may not realize that missing one day of school can impact a student's achievement.
- A professional development task force committee has been organized to look at several district initiatives including PLC on Wednesday. Suggestions have been looked at the possibility of doing it a different day of the week such as Friday since athletes are often absent a portion of the day on Friday.
- There has been discussion at a higher level to consider 4 and 5- year graduation rates. Scores can be impacted with students not making it on a four-year track.
- Work continues to get a company selected through the RFP (request for proposal) process. Once a firm is chosen, work will begin on developing a new website which will take the remainder of the school year. Once the website has been put together, each school will have a landing page identical to the district landing page so all district pages are consistent and contains the same information. Each school will be responsible for maintenance of their page.

Strategic plan update – the steering committee has met and the core planning team will meet for the first time on December 1st. The district needs to have a strategic plan in place before we make any facility decisions.

School Highlights:

Stevens – Mr. Julius has been digging into the school’s data and looking at similar schools to see how they compare to schools with similar size. Stevens is first in language arts and close to Brandon Valley in math. New construction of the science wing is complete. There is ample walking space for students, improved HVAC system, expanded labs.

Pinedale - PTA purchased Lucy Caulkins for teachers and PTA has implemented an attendance initiative to keep kids in school by giving them tickets for certain “themed” days and holding drawings one day a week. Incentives include lunch with students or teacher or other items.

West – encouraged by priority on attendance and they hold a monthly event with the reading incentives and family service nights. Mr. Conrad rewards students “Get caught reading” with rewards and even teachers are rewarded with small incentives.

Valley View – just finished fall fundraisers – have turkey bingo coming up and will include Rapid Valley. Christmas programs will be held at the middle school. Working on getting a score board to be purchased by the PTA. PTA appreciates the unique opportunity to work with the middle school for community involvement. Research shows that the partnership of elementary and middle schools helps students with transitions from elementary to middle school.

Southwest – New principal is encouraging the connection of Corral Drive and Southwest students and bringing the students together by having reading days and other events. Veteran’s Day program was very well attended.

Horace Mann – Held a Veteran’s Day program and honored veterans with a small gift. Working on student attendance school wide with various initiatives/rewards.

Knollwood - Students at Knollwood are rewarded for their attendance with lunch with the principal or a t-shirt.

Robbinsdale students with good attendance were rewarded with a trip to the pumpkin patch. Literacy night and book fair to be held on November 17th.

Representatives are reminded to submit future agenda topics to Shirley at shirley.fletcher@k12.sd.us or by calling 716-0327.

The next meeting will be held on January 12, 2017. The December meeting is cancelled due to the Governor’s Luncheon/Budget Address.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Fletcher
Senior Administrative Assistant