

19 April 2006

Memorandum To: WHS-PTSA Minority Achievement Committee
CC: Mike Campbell, Dana Cimino
From: Mark Richardson, Minority Achievement Committee Chair
Subject: Summary of April 2006 Monthly Committee Meeting

The Minority Achievement Committee held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday April 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Principal's conference room. In attendance was Principal Mike Campbell, Ms. Emile Wollard, PTSA President Dana Cimino, Celeste Peterson, Rosie Maye-Thomas, Zoe Dillard, BITS Coordinator Carol Jasper, and Mark Richardson.

The primary agenda item was the last MAC newsletter. The final MAC newsletter release of the school year will be mailed out with the June Watchdog newspaper. The hard deadline for inputs for the Watchdog is May 25, 2006. Thus all copies (approximately 2800) must be completed and delivered to Mr. McCarthy by that date. Given this hard deadline, our deadlines for inputs and final copy ready version are as follows:

Inputs to Celeste Peterson: 11 May 2006
Final copy ready MAC newsletter: 18 May 2006

It is imperative that we adhere to these deadlines in order to allow time for copying and delivery to the Watchdog staff. There are a number of articles to be included in this final newsletter release. These articles were discussed and agreed upon at the committee meeting. A list of articles and the respective POC for article delivery are as follows:

Chairman's Corner: Mark Richardson (Capture of committee highlights for year)
Principal's Note: Mike Campbell (Capture of school's accomplishments for year and planned activities for upcoming year. Also provide announcement of opportunities for Minority teaching positions at Westfield. Also short blurb on Natan McKenzie's nomination for award and status if known by deadline)
BITS: Carol Jasper (highlights and accomplishments for year and plan activities for upcoming year, include metrics to highlight program's successes)
Student Articles: Areile Jasper, Chelsea (per Carol Jasper)
One from Drama Club student
Staff Articles: Mr. Garcia (previously submitted but not published)
Ms. Woolard (Summer math Algebra 2 class)
Ms. Dickerson/Mr. Garcia (Summer Honors/AP Institute)
PTSA Corner: Dana Cimino (capture PTSA highlights for year)
Senior Students: Karla Butler (list of graduating seniors with intended/committed college acceptances)

- Washington Post Article:** Celeste Peterson (Synopsis of Washington Post article on minority achievement in Fairfax County including link to article if possible). Also provide link to Virginia Pilot article on same topic if available).
- Okalahoma Casting:** Zoe Dillard (list of minority students that were cast in the play and encourage more students to audition for future Drama Club plays)
- Asian/Pacific Heritage:** Celeste Peterson (provide background and informative article)

The committee discussed other items currently of interest to the committee. Mr. Campbell discussed a new initiative that is being considered for inclusion at Westfield next year called the Professional Learning Communities (PLC). This initiative, if implemented will add a 25 minute period between the first and third (or second and fourth) periods to focus on remediation or review of class curriculum topics from the previous class session. The idea is to rotate the sessions each day to cover all class periods. More information will be forthcoming if this program is accepted and implemented.

Mark Richardson will present the summary grade data for school year 2004-2005 at the PTSA meeting on Thursday April 20, 2006. Committee members are asked to come out and support this presentation. If you missed the Spring Parent Coffee, this is a second opportunity to hear the gains made in closing the achievement gap this past year.

Discussion was also held on looking into the possibility of extending BITS beyond its current schedule. BITS formally starts in October and ends in early-mid May. The schedule for next year has been submitted and approved and adds more dates throughout the year. There is an interest from parents and students to start the program in September to allow more time for improving grades before the first quarter interim reporting period. Also, since testing occurs in late May, and students are preparing for SOLs, finals and AP exams, BITS sessions should extend into early June to provide time allocated specifically for preparing for these tests. The school is looking into this and will get back to Carol Jasper and the committee.

The final MAC monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 16 May 2006. We would really like to have as many committee members to come out and support this meeting. We will try to do something special to close out the year.