

**MINORITY STUDENT ACHIVEMENT COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 17, 2006  
MEETING MINUTES**

The minority achievement committee held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday October 17, 2006 in the Library. Mr. Mark Richardson chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

Richardson, Mark, (Committee Chair)  
Thomas Tim (Principal)  
Jasper, Carol (parent/BITS coordinator)  
Peterson, Celeste (parent/newsletter editor)  
Pike, Susie (ESOL teacher)  
Spain, Evelyn (parent)  
Campbell, Jennifer (PTSA president)  
Dillard, Zoe (teacher)  
Akins, Karen (parent)  
Hobbs, Shelia (parent)  
Dawson, Marnie (counselor)

The following agenda items were covered:

**1. Fall Parent Coffee Final Preparation:**

The committee finalized the plans for the Fall Parent Coffee, which will be held on Wednesday October 25, at 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall. Principal Thomas is coordinating the automated call system and will place an announcement on the system in English and Spanish. Calls should go out the weekend before the coffee. Parent and teacher volunteers will follow up with personal calls to parents. A keep-in-touch announcement will go out Tuesday before the coffee. Outreach for this parent coffee will be the most extensive campaign since the inception of the MAC. There will be readings from two performers from the Drama Club. Department chairs will provide a consolidated summary of the current usage of the School Handbook on Reducing the Achievement gap. There will be a presentation on BITS. Jennifer Campbell will give a welcome from the PTSA and encourage parents to join the PTSA. Evelyn Spain has offered to provide a gift basket as a door prize. I will provide two \$25 gas cards using funds from the MAC budget. Donations will be used in the future for door prizes at our parent coffees. There will also be a Language Interpretation System available for use by non-English speaking parents.

**2. MAC Theme for 2006-7:**

In keeping with our theme for this year, two subcommittees have been formed to assist in developing processes and implementation the developed processes. The two subcommittees and committee volunteers are:

- a) Increasing Parent Involvement  
Susan Pike ( [Susan.Pike@fcps.edu](mailto:Susan.Pike@fcps.edu) )  
Evelyn Spain ( [Evelynss@yahoo.com](mailto:Evelynss@yahoo.com) )
  
- b) Student Mentoring  
Celeste Peterson ( [Celeste\\_r\\_Peterson@raytheon.com](mailto:Celeste_r_Peterson@raytheon.com) )  
Jennifer Campbell ( [JCampbell@aol.com](mailto:JCampbell@aol.com) )  
Sheila Hobbs ( [SaH6811@aol.com](mailto:SaH6811@aol.com) )  
Kim Greer ( [Kim.Greer@fcps.edu](mailto:Kim.Greer@fcps.edu) )

We are seeking students to serve on these committees as well so if you have a student to recommend to any of these subcommittees, please send me an email. More parent and teacher subcommittee volunteers are needed so here is your chance to step up and get involved in the MAC. Please send me an email of your interest. Subcommittees will meet and provide their recommendations to the committee for feedback and submittal to the school for implementation.

### **3. BITS Update.**

BITS held its first session on October 14 and sessions continue through the first week in June. There were 20 students and 20 tutors present at the first session. Elementary students now make up the majority of students participating in the BITS program. If you are interested in helping out with the BITS program, please contact the Carol Jasper at [Cvj78@aol.com](mailto:Cvj78@aol.com) . You may also visit the Westfield PTSA web site and click on the link to BITS.

### **4. Rolls Royce Intern Program.**

Celeste Peterson provided positive feedback on the impact the Summer Intern program sponsored by Rolls Royce impacted her daughter, Erin Peterson (now graduated and attending Virginia Tech), and herself as a mother who was first hesitant to get involved into school activities and programs. Her story will be highlighted in our December MAC newsletter.

### **6. New STEP Sponsors.**

It was announced that the STEP team has two new sponsors and will reconvene this year. The focus will be more on student attitude and behavior while understanding the importance of STEP.

### **7. Fall Newsletter:**

Thanks to all who submitted very interesting and valued articles to the fall newsletter. Celeste Peterson did an outstanding job in incorporating all of the inputs into a very articulate newsletter. Thanks also to the school volunteers who assisted in making copies and stuffing envelopes. It goes to show that with the assistance and partnership of many individuals, much can be accomplished and achieved.

**8. ESOL Mentors:**

Susan Pike noted that there is a need for male volunteers to come out and provide support and serve as role models to her male ESOL students. Female adult volunteers are also needed. For more information, please contact Ms. Pike.

**9. New Counselor Representative:**

Ms. Marnie Dawson is the new school faculty member representing the school counselors.

**10. Open Discussion:**

Parents and students can now register to be members of the minority achievement committee online using the link to the committee's web site.