

MINORITY STUDENT ACHIVEMENT COMMITTEE
JANUARY 15, 2008
MEETING MINUTES

The minority achievement committee held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday January 15, 2008 in the Library. Due to scheduling conflicts, the meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. and was brief. Mr. Mark Richardson chaired the meeting. The following members were present:

Richardson, Mark, (Parent/Committee Chair)
Spain, Evelyn, (Parent)
Campbell, Jennifer, (Parent/PTSA President)
Dargan, Valerie, (Parent)
Coffin, Carol, (Parent)
Tortorella, Nancy (BITS Co-Chair)
Jasper, Carol (BITS Co-Chair)
Richardson, Alice, (Parent)

The following covered agenda items are summarized below.

1. Introductions and Welcome:

Mr. Richardson welcomed everyone and expressed his thanks for coming out early to accommodate his schedule.

2. BITS Update:

Nancy Tortorella and Carol Jasper presented an update on BITS. Elementary students are dominating the student roster. Algebra 1 and 2 are the most needed subject matter areas for high school level tutoring. Northrop Grumman has stepped up to provide more adult tutors. There is a continued need for more tutors to handle the increased number of students. Carol Jasper was tasked with putting together a keep-in-touch announcement to make a call for more tutors.

3. Student Representatives on MAC:

Evelyn Spain agreed to work with Marnie Dawson to recruit students to become active members of the committee. More to come on this at our next meeting.

4. Hispanic Parent Outreach:

Principal Thomas, Hilda Ventura, the Hispanic parent liaison at Westfield and Monica Sanza are planning to meet with Hispanic/Latino parents to discuss concepts for increasing Hispanic parental involvement. Evelyn Spain has offered to work with this subcommittee. I recommend that we also include a student on the committee. A workshop is in the planning stage to assist students of Hispanic heritage in preparing for college.

If you would like to participate on this subcommittee, please contact Hilda Ventura (Hilda.Ventura@fcps.edu) or Principal Thomas (Tim.Thomas@fcps.edu).

5. **Parent Coffee:**

Our next parent coffee is scheduled for Wednesday March 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall. Our focus for this parent coffee will be presentation of the grade data trend analysis that spans the past six years. Mr. Hawkins and I are leading this analysis effort and we hope to identify those subject areas where the achievement gap persists and/or are closing. The goal is to use this data as metrics on how well the school is performing on closing the achievement gap and also to help the school in focusing resources on those subject areas where the achievement gaps are the widest. We will finalize the agenda at our February meeting.

6. **MAC Newsletter:**

The next issue will be distributed as an insert in the March release of the Watchdog. **Inputs are needed no later than February 15, 2008** to allow time for editing and copying. We did not receive all of the articles that we had hoped for in our December issue, so I am requesting that these articles be included in this upcoming issue. As a reminder, here are the articles slated for this issue. This issue will include articles on Bulldog Buddies (Ginny Muller), BITS (Carol Jasper/Nancy Tortorella, Hispanic Outreach (Hilda Ventura/Tim Thomas), African American Girls Club (Pat Williams/Kim Greer), Erin Peterson Golf Tournament (Celeste Peterson), Chairman's Corner (Mark Richardson), pictures from December Holiday Celebration (**Who has the pictures?**), MLK performances (Susan Pike/Carmen Danies) and PTSA article (Jennifer Campbell). We are also seeking student articles. Please send your articles to Celeste Peterson, our newsletter editor at (Celeste_r_Peterson@raytheon.com and CPeter40@aol.com). Please send to both email addresses to ensure that Celeste receives your inputs. Also, please copy me so that I know that your article has been submitted.

7. **Grade Data Analysis:**

Work is progressing, although slowly on the grade data analysis. Mark Richardson presented sample summary plots for Algebra 1 to illustrate the proposed trend analysis to be presented at the Spring Parent Coffee. A more comprehensive presentation will be developed and presented to the school faculty and parents. We will use the grade and SOL data as metrics to determine where the gaps in academic achievement persist and also to identify those areas where the gap has closed. Concepts applied in areas where the gap has closed will be shared with faculty of subject areas where the gap has increased or remains persistent as a means of closing the achievement gap in those areas.

8. **December Holiday Celebration:**

Thanks to everyone who came out to our annual holiday celebration meeting. We enjoyed food and entertainment by the International Club and the Step Team. If anyone has pictures, please contact me so that we can post them on our website and also include a sample in our next newsletter.