

“KEEP MOVING KOHL FORWARD”

Minutes

September 4, 2009

WE CAN DO BETTER!
MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!
WE CAN'T CHANGE WHAT WE DON'T KNOW.

- **General Introductions and Thanks for Attending**
 - o **Cindy Kaier**

- **Opportunities with the District**
 - o **District Parent Council with the Superintendent**
 - o **SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) Representative**
 - **Feedback from Frankie Collins**

- **Writing Rubric**
 - o **Lucy Caulkins**
 - o **Parent Support**
 - o **Goals & Expectations**

Lucy Caulkins writing tool was presented by Kelli Trenkamp.

Small group discussion: How do we get information out to parents in an efficient manner, that will help generate interactive parent support of student writing skills at home?

- o Teachers generate “Short Emails-Big Letters” with quick suggestions on how to help your child with writing
 - o Send short, regular notes home that provide one or two concrete, usable tips to support their child with what is currently being taught in class. Use these suggestions to create an interactive environment at home when reviewing daily/weekly lessons from school.
 - o Information on websites to access, that will help empower parents when working with their kids
 - o Provide Lucy Caulkins website
 - o Determine the parents’ expectations, what do they want to know.
 - o Provide a “Glossary of Terms” to parents so they can use the same language at home (spiraling)
 - o Bring writing packets home for the summer, similar to math packets
 - o Problem of the month
 - o Parents “Buddy Up” or “Blog” where parents with similar ability kids can come together
 - o Parents need to know more specifically where their child is in the learning process: send home more specific communications and work that is done in class to help parent understanding
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- **Drop-Off and Parking Safety**

Small Group discussion: Knowing that Kohl is the highest “Open Enrolled” school in the district, and that 50% of the students enrolled in kindergarten this year are OE, we have many families that drive to campus. How do we keep our kids safe during drop off and pick up times?

- Promote “Safe Routes to School” so kids and families are aware of safe ways to walk or ride to school. This may reduce the number of drivers.
- <13% of families do not drive to school. This can contribute to childhood obesity, by not utilizing a daily walking opportunity to gain exercise.
- Establish Team Leaders within neighborhoods to promote carpooling or walking to school and having local businesses sponsor kids who walk to school.
- Clarify the signage so morning and afternoon parking hours are clear.
- Coordinate options with Resource Officer
- Provide Parking Map in School Directory
- Parents must stay with their child
- Conduct “Safety Drills” ie: child must go to the office if left alone outside. Provide instructions to kids re: what to do when they are not with a parent.
- Para availability to monitor Drop off and Parking
- What about busses?

- **Science Fair**

Small group discussion: Understanding the time commitment, standards to be achieved, parent and teacher involvement, do we want to continue to have the annual Science Fair at Kohl?

- **Pros:**
 - Students learn the Scientific Method
 - Kids who do the work gain knowledge
 - Challenges Kids outside their comfort zone
- **Cons:**
 - Teacher/Parent Fatigue
 - Equitable support for kids at home
 - Kids feel pressured
 - Parents can tend to do the project for the kids
- **Discussion**
 - Set up more specific guidelines
 - Helpers to work with the kids at school
 - Include bigger prospective: research eco-system, work outside, possible fieldtrips, integrate more current technology into projects
 - Utilize new kitchen in the future for hands-on projects
 - 3rd/4th/5th grade kids-most participate, K-2, 5-10 kids voluntarily turn in projects, 15 Supreme Merit Awards given and 24 Honorable Merit Awards given last year.
 - District provides guidelines on how the Science Fair should look and standards
 - Technology Fair – use the Computer Lab
 - Mentor a child in need to complete the science project via parent involvement or older kids volunteering.
 - Focus on how to support Teacher/Parent Fatigue

- **Open Forum**
 - o **Keep Moving Kohl Forward-“Question to the Kohl Community”**
 - o **Roundtable brainstorming**

Discussions continued introducing a forum on **“Cultural Understanding”**. As a community, we can take advantage of the diversity we have at Kohl by inviting individuals to prepare a presentation outlining their background and describing what their lifestyle is like. Whether it be ethnic, physically challenged, different languages spoken, etc., the goal would be to help the Kohl community to be more engaged and comfortable with each other by understanding each others differences and learning those differences from those experiencing it.

Next Meeting October 1, 6:00pm to 7:00pm- School Library

Facilitators:

Frankie Collins 303-518-5898 (1/5)

Ben Diamond 303-635-0953 (2/5)

Pam Gentry 303-439-2196 (K/2)

Ysabelle Haggard 303-438-1837 (2)

Stacey Klemp 303-551-2591 (K/4)