

Southwest Advisory Council

<http://myschoolonline.com/md/swadvisory>

Meeting Minutes - November, 2001

Topic: New Elementary Reading Series – Location: Arbutus Elementary

AA

In Attendance:

Dawn Baker
Jane Davis
Samuel Macer
Lisa Orens (Vice Chair)
Joseph Pallozzi (Chair)
Alana Wase
Tracey Weinkam

Absent:

Carl Klein
Deray McKesson
Anita Newkirk
Marquita Saunders
Sabria Smith

Meeting Opened by Joseph Pallozzi at 7:10pm.

Meeting Attendance: Thirty-eight (38)

Open Session: Elementary Reading Series

- Reading program consists of phonics, word identification, word study, spelling, comprehension and writing.
- Program cost \$2,700,000. All Baltimore County K thru 3rd grades use the same books.
- Story selections include fiction and non-fiction.
- Teacher assessment pre and post. Teachers received three hours of training from the publisher for each kit (total of six hours). In-house training ongoing.
- Parent Liaison: June Bowers (410) 887-4039.
- Reading groups or classes are both tools used to combine reading abilities. The number of teachers per school can alter method. Grouping is up to each individual school.
- Model reading – parents should read to their children.

Closed Session:

- Tracey Weinkam voice concern of a Westchester parent who was questioning the 20 min. delay in the start of the AM kindergarten class instruction. Children listen to music during this time period. Parent feels it's wasted time. Principal call it "transition" time.
- Kindergarten – different approaches vary with individual teachers and schools.
- Two student advisory members have yet to make a meeting. They will be contacted.
- Cell phones – are they allowed? Dr. Milbourne states determination made on a system-by-system basis. *Action Item: Dr. Milbourne to contact Dr. Mohler for an update.*
- Dr. Milbourne commented that parent questions/comments were focused and relevant. Parents are supportive of the new reading program. Parent and teachers are partners in the learning process.
- Alana Wase expressed question regarding high school athletics vs. low g.p.a. *Action Item: Dr. Milbourne to obtain copy of policy.* This information should be shared with other councils.

Upcoming Meetings:

- December 6, 2002: Topic, Joint Advisory Boards.
Tour 7:00pm/Meeting 7:30pm. Location: Cockeysville Middle School
- January 16, 2002: Topic, Resource Officers in High Schools.
Tour 7:00pm/Meeting 7:30pm. Location: Landsdowne High School
- February 20, 2002: Topic, Special Education. Note: Specific topic to be determined.
Tour 7:00pm/Meeting 7:30pm. Location: Baltimore Highland Elementary

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dawn Baker, Secretary

cc: All Meeting Attendees

Mr. Kennedy

Dr. Milbourne

Ms. Zepp