

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

June Meeting Recap

SCAC Recognition:

Mr. Neal Ormond, President of the Board of Education, was present in order to recognize the SCAC Representatives for their service during the 2008-09 school year. He stressed the importance of the SCAC, as a whole; Representative involvement at the school level; and the Representatives' continual dialogue with parents in school communities. Mr. Ormond feels the SCAC is a key vehicle to keep the Board aware of the day-to-day happenings in schools and neighborhoods. Furthermore, he shared that the Board would continue to look to the SCAC for guidance and input on District 129 issues. He looks forward to working with the SCAC during the 09-10 school year and for continued and enhanced communication throughout District 129.

Technology Presentation:

Stacy Behmer, Directory of Technology, began by explaining that her presentation would highlight those areas that would have the largest impact on students. Stacy explained that many of the problems of the past were based on the inadequacy of the district's fiber. Many of those problems have been solved based on the larger "pipeline" of fiber that has been installed throughout the past year. In addition, this improved fiber has enhanced the phone system and, therefore, communication to parents. Of course, much of the district equipment is still outdated. Stacy shared that many of the upcoming projects are dependent on our 2009-10 budget. However, plans are in place to network more of the district's printers and copy machines. And, as funds become available, her department is ready to move forward with E-School, the new student information system. In sharing her 09-10 goals, Stacy hopes to concentrate on classroom technology (versus the infrastructure that took much of her time this year). Stacy explained that she would conduct an inventory of all district technology, perform a technology audit at each school, and establish a District 129 refresh cycle for instructional technology.

The Representatives had many questions surrounding school parent groups purchasing technology for schools. The question also came up as to what purchases the district should be ultimately responsible for. Regardless, Stacy cautioned that any purchases need to be district-approved as she has worked hard to establish a district standard for schools. In addition, the district technicians cannot be expected to support technology that has not been previously approved.

2009-10 Agenda Topics Discussion:

The Representatives were given an opportunity to brainstorm topics that they feel would be beneficial to add to the 09-10 SCAC agenda. Some of the topics of interest are fees, field trips, master calendar/scheduling conflicts, and parental involvement. In addition, the Representatives would like to see some type of program established for the district that would address the spectrum of bullying to suicide prevention. This program would be geared towards the students and staff, with a "section" available to parents.

The Representatives also signed a letter to Governor Quinn urging him to sign bill SB2051 and volunteered to place yard signs about the first day of school. Lastly, a discussion took place about the addition of one to two Members-At-Large to the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, August 24th at 7:00 p.m.
Room B140, West High School