

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

October Meeting Recap

Birthday Celebration:

The meeting began with singing and treats as the SCAC Representatives celebrated Dr. Rydland's birthday!

Process Registration and Gifted Information:

Dr. Rydland explained the background information that the Representatives had received for this meeting. He specifically referred to the fee matrix that had been included in their packets. Dr. Rydland explained that this was preliminary information and that we are in the process of gathering and organizing all information on fees. He explained that they would see more details on fees as they became available. The Reps then got together in small groups to finish their discussion of and to share feedback about 08-09 Registration processes and the Gifted presentation (given at the September meeting).

Elementary Time of Day Presentation:

Dr. Rydland then introduced Cynthia Latimer, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Cynthia introduced Erin Slater, Directory of Elementary Education and Barb Vlasvich, Director of Literacy and Assessments. Erin began by informing the Reps of the current number of instructional contact minutes in each elementary student's day. She then let them know that those minutes would increase by 20 minutes per day for the 09-10 school year. As they began the research into the subject months ago, Erin and Barb asked the question, "How are we using time during the day, and do teachers have adequate and appropriate tools and training to deliver that instruction?" The research done thus far has shown that District 129 Elementary schools are inconsistent in the amount of time that is being devoted to each instructional area. As the district moves forward with these additional minutes, there are excellent opportunities to introduce consistent practices across the district with a focus on consistent instruction. Erin and Barb stated that the additional time will be added to the day with an instructional plan in place. Furthermore, the Teaching and Learning Team will strive to "build a day" for students initially by establishing content and curriculum guidelines. At that point, the district will be more prescriptive with specific schools.

The Representatives had a great deal of questions. Many surrounded Kindergarten length of day, the amount of time spent on each instructional area, and the time being spent on other "events" that now take place at each elementary school (i.e.; "fun Fridays", PBIS incentives, etc.).

Dr. Rydland summarized the presentation by sharing his thoughts about how time is being spent during an elementary student's day, about successfully engaging students at their instructional level and about the great need for proper assessments and, therefore, data.

**Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 24th at 7:00 p.m.
West Aurora High School – Room B140**