

SBIT NEWS
November 29, 2005
West Broad Street School

The SBIT met on November 29th at 5:00 p.m. in the West Broad Street School Library/Media Center.

The first order of business was to welcome Mrs. Gail MacDonald, as our new Board of Education member to the SBIT. Other members in attendance at the meeting were parent representative, Carolyn Goodrich, staff representative, Emily Noyes, building principal, Terry Jordan and Claudia Albert, our district's Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

The discussion then focused on the services provided by the Academic Support Program at West Broad Street School. Mrs. Jordan reported that our Parent Involvement evening, explaining the school's support services to parents, was very well attended. The team also discussed the differences and similarities between Academic Support Program services and special education services and the staff described how the needs of students are being met through the school's Instructional Improvement Plan.

Mrs. Goodrich inquired as to how student progress is being monitored other than through the results of the Connecticut Mastery Tests. Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Noyes described the Literacy Assessment Calendar and how closely students are monitored in reading comprehension and writing through the district assessments that are given routinely throughout the school year. Additionally, it was explained to members of the team that math assessments are also given after each Investigations Unit. Work is also being done by staff to align instruction with the content standards from the Mastery Test that our students consistently score poorly on.

Mrs. Jordan then reviewed the content of the school's Instructional Improvement Plan, being implemented this year by staff; the connection of the Plan to student results on the district assessments; and specific Actions that the staff is taking to address instructional needs identified by student performance on the assessments. The school's "It's Up To Me!" personal responsibility program was also discussed.

The final topic of discussion focused on opportunities for parents to participate in the school. It was decided that a Math Day would be scheduled in early February. This event will give parents the opportunity to participate in a math class with their student. We also discussed the Book Chat scheduled for December 12th. The group is reading the book, And Words Can Hurt Forever. Mrs. Jordan reported that eighteen books had been handed out to interested parents. It was also decided that Mrs. Jordan and Ms. Albert would design a "mock" CMT to give to parents prior to the administration of the Connecticut Mastery Test in March. The purpose would be to give parents the opportunity to learn more about the content of the test by actually experiencing it. The SBIT also decided to focus our efforts on establishing a Publishing Center to be manned by parents. (Look for a notice coming home after the winter break describing this opportunity!) Another topic discussed was whether or not there is a role for parents in helping students to become more proficient on the computer with keyboarding. Mrs. Jordan suggested that there needed to be research done on what is considered to be the most effective way to teach keyboarding to young children.

It was decided at the meeting that Mrs. MacDonald would let Mr. McKee know that our SBIT members were interested in an opportunity to participate in a parent leadership training program that might be offered next fall by the Center for School Change and the Connecticut Commission on Children. The program is called, "Parents See" and it is a three-hour, twelve-week course. Mrs. Goodrich stated she was very interested in participating in the program and is hopeful that the training will be offered next fall.

The December 20th meeting of the SBIT was cancelled. The West Broad Street School SBIT will meet again on January 17, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library/Media Center.

SBIT AGENDA
January 17, 2005
5:00 p.m. Library/Media Center

Call to Order:

- Approval of Minutes 11/29/05
- Citizen Comments

Information Items;

- Board of Education update
- Budget Process update
- Instructional Improvement Plan update
- Other as brought forward by members

Decision items:

- Parent Involvement Activities
 - ⇒ Publishing Center
 - ⇒ Math Class
 - ⇒ "Mock" CMT
 - ⇒ Book Chat
 - ⇒ Other