

WEST VINE STREET SCHOOL SBIT MINUTES

MONDAY OCTOBER 17, 2005

Members Present: Claudia Albert, Virginia Brown, Marika Heughins, Tricia DeLapp, Kathy Dreher, Sue Jones, Karen Abston, Ed Haberek

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

The September meeting minutes were accepted.

SBIT/BOE REPORTS:

Claudia Albert stated that all SBIT meeting minutes for the SPS district will be posted online on the SPS home page, however she will clarify this and provide more information at the next meeting.

WBSS: First Day of School Celebration, summer reading program, parent compact and upcoming curricular events were discussed.

DMS: Parent compact, general membership and goals were discussed.

PMS: SLBW activities, Flex Block Scheduling, Baby Think It Over Program and high spirited team building activities were discussed.

MMS: Minutes were not available at this time.

SHS: School goals, guidance department changes, including a successful college/coffee social, 8th-9th grade transition and X-Block were discussed.

A BOE Member was not present to report, however Claudia Albert stated that each principal spoke about school improvement and Cathy Cook spoke about Educational Cost Sharing at the last BOE meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

*Back to School Night

The format change and parent feedback were discussed. Survey results revealed that parents were pleased with the format. Some changes to consider for next year might be including some itinerate staff members (librarian, art teacher, PE teacher), having our teachers/principal discuss the best way to quiet their classrooms for the principal to speak on the intercom and possibly providing some information/overview of the class schedule, curriculum and discipline policies. It was discussed that a separate evening presenting curriculum may be beneficial. Mrs. Brown commended the WVSS staff and SBIT for their work in making Back to School Night a success.

A tally of parents per classroom who have signed the parent compact is not complete at this time. Karen Abston suggested leaving the parent compact and an explanation of it outside children's classrooms to review/sign while parents wait for parent-teacher conferences for those parents who did not have an opportunity to sign it at the Back to School Night.

*Family Reading Night

Survey results showed that parents were pleased with the information presented. Some changes to consider for next year might be to change the format into more of a community conversation. It was discussed that we could have mini-workshops, where

parents are polled about reading topics of interest ahead of time and volunteer staff could provide a time for questions regarding a specific topic. This way, questions about a specific topic could be answered in an informal environment without compromising student confidentiality. Karen Abston suggested that parents could fill out a simple form for teachers, to be used as a reminder about specific questions that could be discussed further at a parent/teacher conference. Parents enjoyed using the SHS facilities for this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

*Math Night:

The SPS district is offering a stipend to teachers to become “team leaders” for each grade at WVSS to engage in professional development and then be able to support the teachers of their respective grade level in teaching children and educating parents regarding the mathematics curriculum. WVSS does not have designated “team leaders” for our SPS math curriculum at this time. Ginny Brown stated that there could be an opportunity for WVSS to participate in a Math Night with DMS and possibly other schools in the SPS District in January, so the SBIT decided to postpone discussions regarding “Math Night”. Kathy Dreher suggested a math newsletter go out from each grade, as a way to help parents understand some math strategies. Claudia Albert stated that teachers send information home as students begin new math units and that she is currently working on putting together instructional information for parents of second grade children, however this information will probably not be available to parents this year.

Claudia Albert suggested hosting another “Reading Night”. Marika Heughins volunteered to organize and plan an event where students and their families will be invited to read together on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 from 6 pm to 7 pm at WVSS. Reading strategies discussed at Family Literacy Night may be used/modeled and parents may teach parents how to implement these strategies. Invitations will be sent out to all WVSS families, however it was discussed that it could be stressed that we are giving families who missed our Literacy Night a different opportunity to become acquainted with our reading/language arts curriculum. Marika Heughins suggested that children could possibly write invitations to their families. A sub-committee to further discuss this Reading Night was scheduled to meet on October 27th at 3:30 pm. Karen Abston volunteered to be a parent teaching other parents and Ed Haberek volunteered to be part of this sub-committee.

Claudia Albert offered to provide funds for a book raffle for this event.

It was agreed that agenda items in “Old Business” including developing a student handbook and revising the SBIT bylaws should be postponed to a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.