

**February 7, 2012      Teacher Advisory Meeting      Brookhaven High School**

Present: Rod Martin, DeeDee Roberts, Doris Jointer, Mark Jones, Makisia Brown, Deborah Bowman, Amy Copeland, Melinda Dykes, Kellye Sicks, Claraetta Jenkins, Rose Breakfield, Kayla Calcote, JoAnna Sproles, Barbara Crossley and Superintendent Dr. Lisa Karmacharya.

Dr. Karmacharya welcomed committee members and expressed her appreciation for their service on the committee. A few announcements ... planned topics for the meeting included funding and charter schools. Dr. K mentioned breakfast at the high school will be piloted starting March 19<sup>th</sup>. Each school was asked to give a report.

Brookhaven High School – Progress reports are almost here and the year seems to be going by quickly.

Lipsey School – Feb 24<sup>th</sup> will be the first parent Lunch & Learn event with the topic “Understanding the Tween Years” with guest speaker Dr. Anne Henderson. Another Lunch & Learn will be planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> 9 weeks and then, next year, once per 9 weeks. Dr. K said this idea works nicely with parental involvement goals.

Technical Center – Everything is going well. Teachers have been taking students to various competitions. Teachers asked questions about the 403 B retirement plan. Those questions can be answered by the PERS representative at Central Office in mid February.

Alexander Junior High – Regarding MAP Testing, the history teachers took the students to the computer lab and tested for three days and that was helpful. One rumor is the phasing out of Computer Discovery, but Dr. K is not aware of that. The recent Basketball Tournament on January 28<sup>th</sup> went well.

Mamie Martin – MAP Testing is complete. Positive growth has been indicated by the results. Beverly Johnston from Madison Station is helping with Common Core work and planning. She has been very helpful.

Brookhaven Elementary – Teachers are busy correlating the Benchmark I results with Benchmark II to see results. Dr. K is going to recommend that MAP Testing not happen next year. Given several options, principals chose MAP Testing for the universal screener this year. Although it is quality data and a wonderful tool, the reality is teachers do not have practical time to analyze the data to a degree that is useful. Would MAP Testing #3 be used? Dr. K said that would be a predictive model for the students’ performance on the MCT2, which might be interesting to see.

Teachers expressed feeling lucky to have one another at BES. Valentine parties will be happening, Rising Scholars Ceremonies are happening and the school Spelling Bee is coming up.

A video was made recently of Mrs. Jointer’s teaching class with the use of technology and it has been a helpful tool. A consistent teacher evaluation/observation tool is being developed for our District for principals to use during drop in observations. Four videos were made from various schools and principals reviewed them together and discussed the qualities of good instruction. They are moving toward a common view of effective teaching and learning.

Mullins - Everything is going well. Roof leaks are being fixed. MAP Testing happened and students did mention the excessive length of the testing and the extensive reading involved.

Next, funding was discussed. The state legislature **will likely not** fully fund MAPE. Dr. K stated that if we get level funding, that will be a blessing and we can survive on that. We have a healthy district fund balance and are stable. **We will continue to tighten belts and move forward.**

Regarding the recent charter school issue – Dr. K read an email that was circulated among school superintendents this week. The notification stated that a charter school bill **could** be passed by the legislature and on the Governor’s desk by the end of the week. There is a strong possibility that a charter school bill will be considered. Dr. K is clearly not supporting any political party, but is supporting the promotion of public schools. But, if charter schools happen, money will **likely be taken** from the public schools which will clearly be another fiscal challenge for all public schools across the state. She encouraged members to share the information about this possibility with fellow staff members. A member asked how long this would take before implementation. Dr. K said she was not sure at this point and would like to read the bill to get more information. A reminder regarding the November 1, 2011 memo from Stacy Pickering, State Auditor and the use of public equipment for political purposes was referred to during the conversation about politics in education.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Alexander Junior High.