

**Fifth District Elementary  
School Improvement Team Meeting Notes  
March 1, 2007**

The people in attendance: Paul Balsamo, Brenda Benson, Mary Boegner, Carole Quental, Dawn Elliott, Catherine Flanagan, Kathy Rus, BJ Gill, and Mark DiPaula

**Old Business**

At the last meeting, the SIT decided to review the climate survey results from the fall of 2005 in order to get a stronger comparison with those from the fall of 2006. Overall the results were very similar except in the areas of information about the function of the SIT and *No Child Left Behind*. It was decided that information about the SIT would begin in the summer newsletter and that the wording on the question about *No Child Left Behind* would be reworded from "Parents know the impact of *No Child Left Behind*" to "Parents know the goals and provisions of *No Child Left Behind*." The team felt this would result in getting a better read on the understanding of our community relative to this federal act.

Mrs. Quental explained the results of the inquiry into the availability of carbonized forms for the nurse's office. The forms used are from BCPS and they are provided to the school at no charge. The only way to get carbonized forms for the nurse's office would be for them to be created and printed specifically for the school. It was agreed that this was cost prohibitive due to the size of our school budget, which is predicated on the size of each school.

**New Business**

As promised, Mrs. Quental shared staffing information with the team members. There will continue to be two homerooms at each grade level and due to the addition of full day kindergarten, there will be some additional music and art time at the building level. We are staffed for two full-day kindergartens next year. At this time, there will be one assistant to be shared by both classes; however, Mrs. Quental mentioned that she had read in the newspaper that the BCPS budget for the 2007/2008 might be adjusted to request one assistant for each kindergarten class in the county. At this time, there is no definitive answer to that issue.

Mrs. Quental explained that due to the expected reduction in our total school enrollment next year, the second kindergarten position would be filled by a highly qualified teacher who was already a member of the school staff. She is working with her staff on this and once a final decision has been assigned and approved, she will release the name of that teacher.

Mrs. Quental also mentioned to the SIT that next year, Mr. Brusio would no longer have time for the daily, 10 minute PAL he was providing to the third through fifth graders in

the building because he will have two additional kindergarten classes that would get his services twice a week. PAL is administered in the primary grades by the classroom teachers. However, Mrs. Quental **stressed** that her staff is very aware of the need for daily physical activity and that all classes would **continue to have a daily** recess period as well as physical education twice a week for grades 1, 2, 3, and 5. Fourth grade gets one gym period because they must have both vocal and instrumental music each week. She will try to build in an additional gym time for fourth grade next year. She also noted that it is her hope to be able to build in an additional period of either art, music, library, or gym for each of her homerooms next year. The teachers on the team noted that there are other opportunities for the children to move around during the day as they switch classes and move throughout the building. It was suggested that the teachers consider the time of day that recess occurred and possibly offering some physical games during recess in order to continue the benefits that PAL offered. The teachers on the team agreed that this was a viable suggestion.

Since there were no parental concerns, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20.