

Fifth District Elementary
SIT Minutes
May 14, 2007

Members in attendance: Brenda Benson, Kathy Rus, Mimi Charitonuk, Dawn Elliott, Carole Quental, BJ Gill, Mark DiPaula, Kitty Flanagan, Mary Boegner, Paul Balsamo, Jaime Connolly

Old Business:

- **Review Climate Survey**

A quick review was done to check for accuracy and a few decisions were made-

1. BOLD the directions about not folding the paper.
2. Send out May 21st (as homework).
3. Next year send out 1 time only, after the 2nd term.

- **MSA Results**

Mrs. Quental explained how Fifth District looks at our results: that is, to compare the same group of students from year to year in order to track progress of the same group of students across time.

New Business:

- **Cafeteria Tables**

A parent asked if the round tables in the cafeteria could be switched to bench style. He/she felt it would allow for more safety and would make it easier to walk around. Pros and cons were discussed and it was decided that round tables:

1. allow for easier conversation
2. are what we have available and to replace them would be a very expensive proposition and would have to be done with money from the school's budget
3. are easier to get in and out of
4. do not pose a safety concern, for they fold up and would not collapse on students

The Team did decide that Mark will be asked to take a look at them over the summer to see if they can be made sturdier.

- **Computer Filtering**

A concern was brought up about the types of websites that students have access to in the school. Mrs. Connolly was present to address this concern. She stated there are two ways in which the students' access is prohibited.

1. Baltimore County uses a Web Sense filtering system, which is updated often and as quickly as possible.
2. Telecommunications Policy which states that BCPS computers are for "educational purposes" and "students shall be held responsible for appropriate behavior", just as "employees of BCPS will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of such resources..."

Mrs. Connolly also stated that there are only three websites allowed in the library. If caught on another site, students are given a warning, and then have their computer time taken away for that period.

She also explained that BCPS uses a “blanket filter”, which means that the same filter is used by Elementary, Middle and High Schools.

Mrs. Connolly also requested that if parents become aware of a website that they feel is not appropriate that they please e-mail the school and it will be checked into immediately.

Also, the school has a publication available by the BCPL- Family Guide to Child Safety on the Internet.

- **Class Pictures**

A parent voiced a concern that the class pictures taken this year used a very “busy” background, where students’ faces sort of blended into the background. It was requested that they be taken in front of the Gym curtains next year. Mrs. Qental said the gym would be difficult, as it would take time away from Mr. Brusco, but said that Judy Harris would talk to Life Touch about the possibility of using a large plain backdrop next year.

- **Seeking New Members**

The SIT Team is looking for 2 new members to join us next year...if interested please contact Mrs. Qental.

- **Principle’s Meeting- “Risk Management”**

A list of activities has been published that are considered “high risk” and therefore should not take place on school grounds and/or during school hours. A few of these affect Fifth District. We are working on ways to continue these activities, while still complying with the counties directive.

- **Exchange City**

A concern was brought forth that the fifth grade’s trip to Exchange City may be combined with the fourth grade, which may be a bit over the fourth graders heads. Teachers and Administrators had already discussed and worked this out:

1. It will take place at a later date to allow for more “training” for the 4th grade students.
2. Fourth and fifth graders will be working together in teams.
3. Once the fourth graders have participated, they will not participate again as fifth graders. Due to class sizes being uneven, the possibility of combining classes in future years will be addressed as necessary.
4. Mrs. Benson is very familiar with the program and has participated in the past and she felt that with training at the end of the year, this would be an appropriate activity for next year’s fourth graders.