

**Fifth District Elementary
SIT Meeting minutes
October 13, 2008**

In Attendance:

Carole Quental, Sally Fleischmann, Martha Craig, Jenn Bortner, Molly Mann, Mark DiPaula, BJ Gill, Tawny Oram, Joyce Kimble, Brenda Benson, Roxanne Dean, Dawn Elliott, Judy Harris, Randy Quinn, Chuck Brent

Meeting Summary:

Mrs. Quental explained the purpose of School Improvement Plan with its numerous performance goals and indicators for the benefit of the new parent members. She explained that each goal is aligned with strategies that will be used to reach that goal. She described the key action plan that was devised with a timeline, the people responsible for implementing the plan, assessment tools that will tell if the goal has been met.

The goal of the state of Maryland is that by 2012 all students will pass state tests with at least a proficient score. Fifth District continues to out-perform that state's criteria for the number of students who will score at proficient or above in Reading and Math on the MSA's. This year, the majority of the targets are for moving students from the proficient to the advanced category.

Each goal, indicator, and activities were reviewed by teacher members of the team. They explained the strategies and how they were implemented. Under math, there will continue to be an after school tutorial program staffed by teachers.

An additional support initiative has been added this year to give the classroom teachers time to do remedial activities with their students. Once a week, special area teachers go outside during recess, allowing one of the classroom teachers to stay in with students needing extra help in reading and math.

Goal 4 deals with having a safe school environment that is conducive to learning. Our target is to continue to have a zero percent suspension rate in our school. We will use "in school suspensions" if necessary as a consequence to serious behavior infractions. The staff at Fifth District is committed to keeping students in school, even if they are serving consequences for serious behavior infractions.

Goal 6 talks about communication with the parents and community. We plan to expand the schools website to help with this goal. There is a process for getting information on the website and it has to go through the BCPS Web Team. Ideas were discussed to include additional information on the school and PTA websites. (i.e.-grade level newsletters,etc.)

Mrs. Quental gave us an update on the Fund for Excellence. So far \$671 has been donated, \$358 into the Technology Fund and \$313 into the Primary Reading Tutors Fund. Our goal this year is \$5000.

Due to a discussion about concerns at the previous meeting, Mrs. Quental shared some factual information about the impact of No Child Left Behind on Hereford Middle School. She conferred with Mrs. Walrod, principal of HMS, to get factual information. Currently there are 37 students are at HMS through special transfers, 27 are in 7th grade and 10 are in the 8th grade. This year no additional students have come into the 6th grade as special transfers. This is also the last year that BCPS will provide transportation for these students. As it is now, the majority of these students are being bussed on private buses that are paid for by their parents. Mrs. Walrod reported that HMS's scores have continued to rise each year since the special transfers have been in place.

At this time, there were no parent concerns to discuss. The next meeting will occur on November 10 at 3:45.