

Windward District Community Meeting Feedback
Thursday, October 20, 2011

1. Health and P.E.

- a. Concerned about the diminishing role in Middle School.
- b. What is the status of BOE Policy on Health and Wellness and Safety 1110-6?
- c. There is not consistency in implementation.
- d. Will student athletics be an equivalent for PE credit?
- e. Health and PE is more than just sports – it is a healthy lifestyle.
- f. Can the military be a partner in this area?
- g. What does proficiency mean in this area?
- h. How can we tap DOE funding through Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP)? <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/whitephysed/index.html>.
- i. **Concern that there are no dedicated PE teachers (except for 3) for elementary schools. This is an additional subject for non-PE focused teachers. Sports are not seen as an equivalent because sports want kids to fit into a model--big for football--while PE teaching healthy living.

2. Limited Resources

- a. We want to do a lot but there are not enough resources.
 - i. *Challenge is managing resources on a shrinking budget.
- b. Teachers overwhelmed and feel burdened by all the demands.
- c. Focus is on test scores to the detriment of other important outcomes.
- d. Priority - Need to invest in teachers to ensure that they are qualified, effective AND caring/dedicated – a culture of caring.
- e. Teachers need to learn new ways of teaching going forward – need for P-20 alignment.
- f. Schools partner with non-profits for afterschool programs to support initiatives like Health and Wellness but those funds are limited too. (e.g. Uplinks).
- g. HSA testing in 10th grade is a problem because the high schools have not yet prepared the kids for the test – unnecessary expenditures in time and money.

3. Technology and Role of Libraries

- a. Textbooks are not allowed in libraries per past BOE?
- b. Teachers buy textbooks because it comes with “curriculum”
- c. Is there a shift from paper to virtual textbooks? Is this an initiative?
- d. Less hours at libraries due to budget cuts is challenging for parents/students.
- e. Grading is moving to on-line but many parents don’t have computers – how can libraries fill this gap?

4. Professional Development

- a. *Tap resources within the school to provide focused professional development (capacity building model of professional development).
- b. **How will the BOE/DOE deal with bad teachers?

5. Curriculum

- a. *Alignment with high schools.
- b. ** Success = character teaching and development, which is not seen as a focus in the classroom. The focus everyone agreed on is NCLB testing...only teaching to pass the test.
- c. **Need to look at a trade HS as not all kids will go to college. This would help define success.
- d. ** To get students excited about school, we need to develop a personalized education plan that supports the new graduation requirements, while at the same time using the "or equivalent" to support student interests.

6. Parent Engagement

- a. **Parents acknowledge their involvement is weak as they are too busy working/providing for their families. The parents in my group felt that the schools need to direct them on what to do or what is needed--"This is how you can help...this is what we need you to do." Just don't invite parents to help, but have an effective communication plan with them to support the school and their kids. They did say that course electives (sports, dance, drama, etc) help pull parents in.

7. Bullying

- a. **Bullying is a big issue, but the students in my group felt that no one was paying attention to it. They felt that there is no one to help kids or teachers deal with bullying at the local level. When asked how do we fix this? They responded that educating all on bullying and encouraging kids, the victims, to speak up would be a start. To make this happen, the schools (administrators/teachers) need to be seen as a safe environment that will protect them. In some schools, however, this is not the case. The students said that social media bullying is big and it translates into on-campus bullying by spreading untrue rumors/character assassination.
- b. **Need to expand Peer Education programs that focus on victim issues (social, domestic, dating violence). Problem is funding is being cut.

8. Special Education

- a. Parents of children affected by the move from contract-based special ed services to employee-based special ed services wanted to meet with the Board of Education.

- b. **Do the new graduation requirements apply to special education students?

9. General

- a. *Work on building relationships.
- b. *Success/Best Practices – designed and delivered targeted interventions which resulted in a 16 point gain in math results.
- c. *Provide response to intervention practices.
- d. *Providing on-site support for federal regulated program compliance.
- e. **Will the BOE champion charter schools?
- f. **Parents really excited about the Early Childhood grant since Jr-Kindergarten seems to be going away because of funding cuts and the lack of teachers in pre-K classrooms.

* responses from a small group of principals and complex area support staff when asked “What do they do to support student achievement?”

** responses from a group of 15 students, parents and teachers.