

TAAC Minutes November 18, 2010

The Catawba County Schools' Teacher Assistant Advisory Council met on Thursday November 18, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in the Annex Beginning Teacher Resource Room. The following members were present: Sandra White (Maiden Elementary), Tammy Zachrich (St. Stephens High), Patricia Robinson (Banoak), Amy Garner (Clyde Campbell), Teresa Biggerstaff (Startown), Beth Shaffer (Mt. View), Bernadette Clawson (Claremont), Susan Coleman (Arndt), Shirley Hildebran & Dawn Bradley (Sherrills Ford), Pat Shook and Jill Harwell (Balls Creek), Carol Sharpe (Catawba), Betsy Lindler (Jacobs Fork), Lorraine Lawing (Tuttle), Kim Gilfillan (River Bend) and ChevEll Blachnik (Lyle Creek). Central Office administrators present were Interim Superintendent Glenn Barger, Assistant Superintendents Pat Hensley and Steve Demiter, Finance Officer Sondra Wolfe, Chief Technology Officer Judith Ray.

Mr. Barger opened the meeting with information regarding Governor Perdue's announcement for the 2011-2012 budget. According to Governor Perdue, the legislature has decided to cut our way out of this recession. It will be a lengthy process. It will start with DPI sending in three proposed budgets to Governor Perdue by November 30th, and then Governor Perdue will submit her budget in January. Following will be a budget from the House in February and the Senate in March. Mr. Barger informed us that with the help of the EduJob allotment for personnel salaries, the Local budget may not get cut. He also made the statement, "this is a critical time, and decisions made this year could affect our schools for many years".

The following questions were discussed:

#1 - If Catawba County Schools is contracting drivers to drive field trips and those drivers are getting paid bus driver paid for the whole day. Why do TA's not receive bus paid while driving to and from field trips? We could do an adjustment to change back to TA pay once we reach the destination.

Answer: At this time, no one is aware that contract drivers are driving field trips. However, if a teacher assistant were to get paid as a bus driver for driving to and from a field trip, they would be responsible for making up the TA time missed.

#2 - Are there enough sub. bus drivers to go around in the FTF area? There never seems to be one willing to drive. Also, why are subs at the High School and Middle School not made to drive if they have a license?

Answer: Assistant Superintendent Steve Demiter answered, NO. There are not enough subs to go around anywhere. There is a bus driver training class that begins on December 6th and it is full. A list of the contract drivers will be sent to the bus coordinator at each school. Also,

the substitute driving at all middle school and high schools are handled by the bus coordinator at their particular school.

#3 - Some schools let their teacher assistants that smoke leave the campus and not punch out. They leave at least 2 times a day and are gone at least 15 minutes each time. This is 30 minutes a day and in one week it will be 2 hours 30 minutes. The time adds up, and at the end of the month it will be 10 hours. The end of the year will be 100 hours. This is a lot of time they are getting paid to leave campus and smoke. This year at the schools the Teacher Assistants time is really tight. What do the ones that leave do?

Answer: Assistant Superintendent Hensley stated that the BOE policy is that each school is to be a Tobacco Free Campus. If tobacco use is done, it must be done off of the school property.

#5 - Why were some schools notified that Catawba County was under a tornado warning on the afternoon of Wednesday, 10-27-10, and other schools were not? I am a bus driver and was not aware that we were under this warning until I got to Arndt Middle School at 2:45 p.m. and was told by an employee there. We have bus cell phones that could have been used for a mass text message so that we could have been made aware of what was going on for our safety as well.

Answer: Assistant Superintendent Demiter stated that it was an unusual incident and hopefully it won't happen again. We are working with the principals regarding weather radios tuned into their specific area, and perhaps an alert to Blackberry's.

The next TA TAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room located at the Annex.