

## **TAC Minutes**

**October 25, 2007**

The Catawba County Schools' Teacher Advisory Council met on Thursday, October 25, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. in the annex boardroom with the following members present: Melissa Oldaker (Arndt); Fran Long (Balls Creek); Judy Gamble (Banoak); Jennifer Downs (Bandys); Elizabeth Norwood (Blackburn); Pam Farnsworth (Bunker Hill); Tim Adams (Challenger High); Kristen Edwards (Catawba); Lynn Holland (Jacobs Fork); Amy Nichols (Lyle Creek); Eric McDonald (Maiden Middle); Michaele Shugart (Maiden High); Neil Bolick (Mill Creek); Lorie Fox (Murray); Kim Yancey (Oxford); Bernadette Clawson (River Bend); Tanya Frye (Sherrills Ford); Candace Moretz (Startown); Sarah Story (St. Stephens Elem.); Jeanine Lynch (St. Stephens High); Zandra Hunt (Sweetwater); and Teesie Ellis (Tuttle).

Central Office administrators present were Dr. Tim Markley, Pat Hensley, Beth Isenhour, Sondra Wolfe, and Judy Ray.

**#1** - Would it be possible to have a universal sports pass for all staff members in all three school systems? Could the Superintendents get together and make this happen?

**Answer:** We would have to check with the two other Superintendents and find out if this is something they might be willing to consider.

**#2** - Parents who work for Catawba County Schools have the option to bring their children with them to that school. I am a grandmother who watches her grandchild after I get home from school. Can grandparents have the option to bring their grandchildren to their school as they did with their children?

**Answer:** According to our policy, parents are the only employees who have the option of having their children reassigned to a different school (provided the parent is a full-time, fully-benefited employee). If the policy was changed to include grandparents, then where would we draw the line—next we would hear requests from other family relatives who would want to be included in the policy. Changing this policy is not a direction in which we plan to go.

**#3** - This is just a suggestion to the central office staff. Many high school students decline taking the county newsletter and some toss it to the trash after a glance. I suggest that fewer hard copies are sent to the schools and some of the copies be placed out in the community at restaurants or places where parents go—such as the Doctor's office, Dentist office, etc. We try to get students to take them home to parents, but many will not make the effort. We need to consider this when having the newsletters printed.

**Answer:** We will discuss this with principals; however the opportunity needs to be given for the newsletter to be sent home because it contains good information for parents. We do well at the K-8 level.

**#4** - What can we do to help the situation with out-of-district students? Our schools are overcrowded and some of the students in question belong in other school systems. Also, what can be done to parents who falsify a notarized affidavit?

**Answer:** Every year we go through the transfer process; however some of our schools are completely closed for transfer students. Several factors, including building capacity, are included in the decision of how many transfer students can be accommodated at each school. Regarding falsifying information, we do our best to check out the information that parents provide us.

**#5** - Why should we have to be mandated to go and listen to things like the Prepaid Legal and insurance meetings if we have seen and heard it all before, every year? Also, why should people who already have the service be mandated to go unless they are going to cancel it? We have other things that we need to do like the mounds of paper work, planning, and conferences.

**Answer:** The state mandates that there are certain presentations which must be made to employees. With new IRS regulations in place, we must make sure that employees are advised that they are eligible for certain benefits.

**#6** - Why do teachers who have EC students that are in pull-out programs complete a PEP, sign it, and do the conference when they do not teach that child?

**Answer:** We are required to have the signature on these PEP's. Regular education teachers must be involved—it is a joint effort with the EC teacher.

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Pat Hensley distributed copies and briefly reviewed the approved 2008-2009 calendar. This calendar was adopted at the Board meeting this past Monday. Pat also distributed information on the new Tuition Reimbursement Grant Program which was effective July 1, 2007.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, at 3:30 p.m.