

TAC Minutes December 15, 2009

The Catawba County Schools' Teacher Advisory Council met on Tuesday, December 15, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. at the Annex Boardroom. The following members were present: Linda Barnett (Arndt); Natalie Inman (Balls Creek); Alan Sigmon (Bandys); Becky Gladden (Banoak); Tammy Fox (Blackburn); Heather Bryant (Campbell); Jacalyn McGill (Catawba); Lisa Koperski (Challenger High); Stephanie Kale (Claremont); Tammy Cordeiro (Fred T. Foard); Ellen Fountain (Jacobs Fork); Tara Zeller (Lyle Creek); Kortney Coulter (Maiden Elem.); Donna Yount (Maiden Middle); Michael Shugart (Maiden High); Neil Bolick (Mill Creek); Mary Sue Williams (Murray); Tina Holler (Oxford); Karen Squiric (River Bend); Ellen Cline (Sherrills Ford); and Mitzi Arrowood (Tuttle).

Central Office administrators present were Superintendent Dr. Tim Markley; Assistant Superintendents Pat Hensley & Beth Isenhour, Chief Technology Officer Dr. Judith Ray; Finance Officer Sondra Wolfe; and Student Services Executive Director Dr. Paul Holden.

The following questions were discussed:

#1 - The United Way is supposed to be a voluntary participation activity, yet we are required to use our time after school to watch the United Way video every year. Is there a way to make this optional for staff members who do not wish to watch it?

Answer: Dr. Markley addressed this question. Principals were asked to show the United Way video as part of a staff meeting. Participation in the United Way campaign is voluntary; however, Dr. Markley asked that all CCS employees watch the video.

#2 - We have many students who are out of district and our school is packed. Can our principal request proof of residency when the elementary students make the transition to middle school? This request would need to be within the first 10 days of the school year.

Answer: If a student is out of district and has a transfer to attend a particular school and the student then moves to the next school level (elementary to middle, or middle to high), the parents must re-apply and receive approval of a new transfer request in order for their child to continue in that particular feeder district. The middle school (or high school, if that should be the case) should check addresses of incoming 7th graders (and incoming 9th graders for high school). If the student's address is out of the district, the student would be required to have a new approved transfer before being enrolled. Principals can request proof of residency at any time for any student who they suspect may be out of district.

#3 - Why are LDP's being administered on Classscapes when the EOG is paper and pencil? Shouldn't they be the same as the EOG? Our computer lab has been tied up and unavailable for regular instruction for the past month. If LDP's are administered through Classscapes in the spring this will tie up another 4 weeks. We could lose 8 weeks of availability, which is 20% of the instructional year. Our lower grades are not getting time in the lab and this seems unfair. Our guidance counselor has also been tied up with testing for over a month now and is not able to see kids.

Answer: There is no comparable paper/pencil product that will give us benchmark results. Making paper/pencil copies of ClassScape benchmarks would be counterproductive since the tests would then need to be hand-scored. Moreover, there would be no way to create data profiles as we currently are able to do. The only mandates regarding the use of ClassScape are the two benchmarks during the year. All other decisions relative

to how often and to what extent ClassScape should be used have been left up to the individual school's discretion. As far as the computer lab being tied up, the two benchmark tests during the year should not tie up the computer lab for an extended period of time.

In regard to guidance counselors, there has been no directive from the central office as to who is in charge of ClassScape. There are other methods in which this could be carried out.

This is an opportune time to remind everyone that ClassScape is a tool to inform instruction. No student should ever receive a grade based on his ClassScape assessments. Rather, ClassScape is designed to identify strengths and weaknesses—both of individual students and in some cases, classes as a whole.

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the Annex Boardroom.