

BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 15, 2011

Members present: Ann Citrin, Robin Mendelson, Chris Eubanks, Diana Simpson, Laura Goldin, Jennifer Guetierrez-Hughes, Glen Roper

- The committee voted to approve the SAC By-Laws
 - Ann Citrin will hold the SAC Chair position for one year.
 - Nominations for Vice Chair position included Amy Taylor and _____. A vice chair will be will be voted-in January 18, 2012.
 - Recorder position is still available.
 - District Accountability Liaison was assigned to Chris Eubanks.

- Research/Drafting Committee:
 - Amy shared the draft of the Parent Satisfaction survey to be distributed by email to the BFA community. The committee reviewed all the questions and debated the content. The goal was determining efficacy of word choice to maximize response rate while minimizing confusion:
 - Revise statement regarding performance; the Parent Advisory Committee is not doing the parent satisfaction survey.

 - Communication between teachers/parents/administration:
 - Provide a list of the top three preferences, thus capping the survey to a specific amount of verbiage.
 - Specifying whether teachers update their webpage sufficiently and maintain current data in the Grade Link portal.

 - Potential question about general website; however, this may rather be addressed through other committees within the school.

 - Conferences between teacher and parents, are they effective?

- Are parents satisfied with the curriculum being offered and then rate accordingly.
 - The wording needs to be clarified to: is the academic challenge – or, are the specific needs - of my child being met.

- Is ability grouping effective?

- Are the supplemental academic materials appropriate?
 - Is the delivery of materials adequate?

- Mechanism for parent feedback
 - How is this going to be addressed...through the board?

- Parent volunteer time; are parents aware of how it's affecting the academic experience?
 - This brings up the potential of an open ended question about: parents being involved in the school as a whole, what they could contribute, and asking whether they are aware of the other volunteer opportunities available.

- Homework, how involved are parents in helping their children with their assignments?
 - Furthermore, how aware are parents of specific books on Core Knowledge content (i.e., the “What Your _ Grader Should Know” series), as well as other Core Knowledge publications.
 - Licenses for textbooks was discussed and the impact that has on education based on the choice of material.

- Teacher effectiveness as a survey question was eliminated until further delineation by the administration.

- Discipline as an issue was not included in the survey.

- Extra-curricular activities were addressed, both in terms of what's offered and the range of price.

- The Base program was not included in the survey, since it's not part of the regular school day.
 - However, the possibility of continuing the program over the summer is an option, and then asking families what their plans are, may warrant questioning.

- Finally, email communication will be addressed elsewhere.
- Amy will make the changes suggested by the committee; the board will look them over once more, and then vote on the final draft in January, 2012.
- Collecting demographic information through the survey was discussed and may be incorporated into the final survey.
- The SAC Goal committee did not report as Kent Barwind was not present at the meeting.

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