

Educational Advocacy Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2009 – St. Margaret's Hospital

5:30 pm

I. Welcome

Dr. Con Spirrison welcomed all the attendees. In attendance were:

Dr. Con Spirrison
Ms. Karla Konieczki
Mr. Blouke Carus
Mr. Jim Carlson
Dr. Jerry Corcoran
Dr. John Piano
Mr. Jay McCracken
Dr. Christine M. Benson
Mr. Jay Burt
Dr. Michael Driscoll

II. Dr. Spirrison provided an overview of the meeting agenda. The meeting minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Dr. Corcoran made a motion to approve the minutes as written. J. McCracken seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. The meeting then focused on committee reports

a) PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT –Dr. Driscoll reviewed the past two meetings for the Parental Involvement Team. Attached are a meeting summary and an outline of the Putnam County Partners in Education Program. The team discussed Jay McCracken's Thesis entitled "Implementation of a Parental Assistance Program at LaSalle Elementary". Ms. Konieczki discussed how the implementation of this program went at LaSalle Elementary. Mr. McCracken discussed how the program is proceeding in Putnam County. The team is very impressed with this program and the implementation of this program in LaSalle and Putnam County schools. Next, Dr. Benson presented the Love & Logic Program she has championed in the Streator Elementary School System. This program provides guidance for parents on creating a non-threatening atmosphere. The program has had great successes for behavioral problem children. The next sub-team meeting will be 10/26 at the LaSalle Library.

b) COMMUNITY PARTNERING – Mr. Burt, Dr. Piano, and Dr. Corcoran summarized the teams progress (see attachment). The team has met once. The team plans to utilize IVCC as a hub for work based education and utilize the IVCC Career Services program. The team has discussed student internships, professional involvement. The team plans to benchmark Vermillion Advanced (a community based lab connected to Danville Community College). The team is also looking into a Career Cruising Program by benchmarking the Danville Community College program and looking at other best practices.

c) RRR & TRANSITIONS – Mr. Carlson reported on this team's progress. The team is looking at high schools that work. The team is stressing real world problem solving, quality work that raises the bar, engaging students (focus on student learning versus test scores), and performance based assessments. The ROE recently held a one day Mini Model School Teachers Institute featuring: Best practices from across the district. Mendota HS has a program called 8th period where lower achieving students receive additional attention during this time. Jim discussed several other topics the team has

discussed ranging from the American Diploma Project, National Standards, Project Lead the Way, National model schools, Singapore Math, Math Coaches in school systems, and professional development.

- d) Suggestions for other committees – Deferred for future consideration. The team discussed creating additional target areas but decided that we should focus our efforts on the first three initiatives and wait until we complete the critical work in these areas.
 - a. Concerns
 - i. Legislature mandates that do not add value for the students
 - ii. Unfunded mandates
 - 1. EAC to look into leveraging AI to help with these concerns.

IV. Expanding Horizons

- a) Partnering with other organizations
 - i. Look into the Danville Community College Advantage
 - ii. ROE enabling change
 - iii. Phi Delta Kappa partnering
- b) Community Involvement & Partnership
 - i. JC Committee drawing business
 - ii. Parental Engagement
 - iii. How can we engage more of the community
- c) Understanding and appreciating the need – A short discussion on this subject transpired.
- d) Getting the word out – No report at this time
- e) Innovations – No report at this time

V. Other – None

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in mid January 2010 – with the final date to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Driscoll
October 21, 2009