

Oak Ridge Elementary
Parent Committee Meeting
July 28, 2009

Attending: Debbie Gsell, Scott Tippett, Mark Williams, Melissa Malone, Kelli Young, Ann Kraft, Nora Carr, Susan Lincks, Laura Thompson, Beth Allen, Shelly Headen, Jackie Burney, Angelo Kidd, Eric Becoats, Sandra Culmer

Committee members shared input and feedback regarding Plan B recommendations and options. They acknowledged that while logistics are difficult, the selected option using Oak Ridge Military Academy, Colfax Elementary and Pearce Elementary seems to be a viable and preferred choice among committee members.

A committee member inquired how parents can help with the deployment of Plan B. Nora Carr replied that parent support and assistance will be needed and solicited as plans are outlined and detailed. She shared that there will be many opportunities for extra hands to support teachers as they relocate and set up classrooms. Nora also acknowledged the commitment and support that committee members and staff have already demonstrated.

A committee member inquired if there are plans to provide mailings and updates to parents. Angelo Kidd shared that communications will be forwarded to parents including e-mail, letters, and Connect-ED messages. Detailed Plan B information will also be posted on the GCS Web site. Additionally, Ann Kraft will plan and coordinate Open House activities for the different school sites.

It was recommended that all communications need to be detailed with as clear/precise information as possible. It was suggested that parents of younger students are particularly concerned about the implementation of Plan B and the placement of students in different locations.

An inquiry was raised about getting needed information to incoming kindergarten and newly enrolled students' parents. Angelo explained that as students enroll, they are registered in N.C. Wise and the school has immediate access to contact information. Eric Becoats offered to expedite the registration of kindergarten students that may be pending. The school's data entry staff member is away until next week.

A committee member inquired about the process that will be implemented if NIOSH requires that materials not be taken from the school to the alternate locations. Will teachers be able to take materials home or will materials have to be discarded? Nora Carr responded explaining that while we don't know the answer to each of these questions, GCS will confer with NIOSH for clarification of the cleaning and recovery of materials. She requested that committee members generate a list of similar questions that could be forwarded to NIOSH for clarification. She shared that there is a conference call scheduled with NIOSH on Thursday, July 30, 2009.

A question was raised regarding an allowance for teachers to purchase replacement materials. Nora cautioned that the district just received notice about an additional expenditure freeze required by the state.

Nora Carr explained that GCS will seek as much guidance as possible from NIOSH regarding HEPA vacuuming and cleaning.

An inquiry was raised about the possibility of mold being present on the furniture that will be loaned from Allen Jay Middle School. One committee member received information that the school had mold. Nora Carr offered that there may be other issues in other schools, but the difference is how people react to the building conditions. Some individuals may be more sensitive than others. Nora offered that the furniture at Allen Jay will be cleaned using the HEPA cleaning protocol if there is any indication of the presence of mold on the furniture.

A committee member inquired about when teachers will be provided with information, directives and next steps. Eric Becoats reaffirmed that he would facilitate getting the answers to questions that the committee has raised and seek to provide information to teachers and staff by the end of the following week.

A committee member asked if it would be possible to stagger the time that school begins at the different locations and explained that the different schedule would benefit parents who need to drop children off at more than one location. Angelo Kidd offered that the implementation of the hub transportation process would not allow for staggered opening times. It was recommended that Jeff Harris, transportation director, attend the next committee meeting to further explain the hub procedures. Angelo also shared that Jeff is interested in polling parents regarding their intentions for transporting their children to school. Jeff is also responsible for determining drop-off and pick-up procedures at each site.

Nora Carr offered that parents will be needed to help facilitate hub and drop-off/pick-up procedures.

An inquiry was raised about the loss of instructional time as a result of having to utilize the hub procedure. Nora replied that GCS is in the process of mapping bus routes and assigning necessary busses and the loss of instructional time would not be a factor.

A committee member inquired about the time that teachers could begin setting up their rooms across the three locations. Angelo offered that the due date for task completion is August 14. Angelo also shared a milestone template with tasks, persons responsible and projected costs. He explained that each person assigned responsibility for the milestone must prepare and submit a detailed checklist of next steps, due dates, etc.

The meeting adjourned with appreciation for the work of the committee shared by Angelo and a recommendation to schedule the next meeting after attaining information from NIOSH.

Angelo Kidd will facilitate the date, time and location of the next meeting and get information to all committee members.