

**MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
MEETING DATE NOVEMBER 29, 2007 7:00 P.M.**

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

29 NOVEMBER 2007

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Dolores Quinn, Richard Jordan, Connie Burgh, Kirk Van Zandbergen, Doug Wilcox, Deb Bush, Karl Wimmer, Rich Niederberger and Lisa Adriance

Board Members Present: Mary Homan, Chris Caterson, Gloria Smith, Celeste Ridler and Kathy Mordovancey

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky, Greg Adams and Chris McComb

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

Items Discussed:

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Latin III as a curriculum offering:** Mr. Ognosky has had discussions with Mr. Tallarico and the offering of Latin III within our own curriculum taught by our current Latin teacher, Mr. Norris, is a potential for next year. As the scheduling process develops Mr. Tallarico will analyze the teaching responsibilities and assignments of the English Department (of which Mr. Norris is also a member) and may potentially have room in Mr. Norris' schedule to offer both Latin I and III next year.
- **Natural Gas and Oil Drilling:** At the request of Mr. Ventresca, who was unable to attend, this issue was addressed again. Mr. Ventresca provided the group written information on the potential revenue available to the school district if we allow the leasing of acreage for the purpose of exploratory efforts for natural gas and oil. A number of properties in the area have done this and there have been some excellent prospects based on well pressures of three initial wells. A number of members present asked that the issue be presented to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

- **Middle States Visitation:** Mr. Tallarico, who was unable to attend tonight, provided the committee members with a written summary of the recent Middle States Visitation in early November. I have included a copy of his report with the minutes for your review.
- **Summer Elementary School Academic Camp Grant:** Mr. McComb and Mr. Adams presented a report to the committee regarding the upcoming Camp. The camp will be funded through a grant secured by the Administrative Grant Writing Team and will be approximately \$50,000 per year for the next three years. The Camp will be run for 6 weeks and will be a full day camp on the grounds at Choconut Valley. The target audience for the grant will be our Title I Math and Reading students in the elementary schools – approximately 100 students – and they will receive daily instruction in math, reading, study skills and have physical activities as well. The camp will be held at Choconut Valley and the students from Lathrop Street will be bused to and from Lathrop Street to Choconut Valley on a daily basis. The principals are busy developing communications with the parents announcing the camp and establishing the enrollment. Rich Niederberger asked for a clarification on what a “Title I” student was and the principals explained that it is a student who has not been identified as having special education needs, but does require individual or small group instruction in reading or math in order to be on grade level in ability.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- Mr. Ognosky provided each of the members present with an 80 page report recently released by the Department of Education explaining the results of the “Costing Out Study” conducted by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates of Colorado. The study was authorized by the state legislature in July, 2006 as part of the Act 1 legislation. The 15 month process was just recently completed and a final report has been delivered and released. A copy of the report is available on line at the Department of Education website, www.pde.state.pa.us. The report includes data on all of the districts in the state of Pennsylvania regarding their current costs per student as compared to the cost per student that the study projects is required in order for all students to meet the goals of “No Child Left Behind” by the year 2014. I have included a two page summary with the minutes of the meeting. Again, the full report is available on line.

IV. Open Forum: The meeting was then opened for discussion on any item by members of the committee:

- Connie Burgh asked for clarification regarding the current wellness procedures and the selling of candy bars, etc. by students during the school day. Mr. Ognosky explained that there is a list of approved sale items available and candy bars are not among those items. Booster Clubs may have those items available at their concession stands for after school events but the selling of those items during the school day is in violation of the policy.

- Connie Burgh said she had a parent ask regarding the use of the school facilities by the 5th and 6th grade travel teams. Specifically, they were concerned about the availability of the high school gym on Sundays. She related to the committee that in conversation with this parent they had been told the gym was unavailable on Sundays due to a lack of custodial help. Mr. Ognosky will speak to the Athletic Director regarding this issue and the A. D. will then contact that parent.
- Dolores Quinn offered a “nicely done” to the instrumental music program on the wonderful band concert that was being held in the auditorium. She had the opportunity to attend prior to coming to the meeting and was very impressed with the music. She also offered her support for the District to investigate the possibility of the natural gas and oil exploration.
- Richard Jordan asked that two items be considered for future conversation and presentation at Community Advisory Meetings: (1) the services offered by the High School Guidance Department in assisting students and families in their preparation for college; (2) the services offered by the Special Education Department in communicating to the parents those opportunities available to the gifted students in the District. Mr. Ognosky said he will arrange with Mrs. Ohmnacht (Guidance Director) and Dr. Golden (Special Education Director) to attend a future meeting and make presentations.
- Chris Caterson explained to everyone that the School Board and the Montrose Education Association had recently reached agreement on a new four year Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2007 in the Faculty Room of the Choconut Valley Elementary School at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Holidays!!!

Submitted by *Mike Ognosky*