

HYPERLINK "<http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/>" INCLUDEPICTURE "http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/www/images/_logo.png" * MERGEFORMATINET

Dr. Cheryl L.H. Atkinson, Superintendent

Guiding Questions - Summary

Dunwoody High School – Region 1 Roundtable

October 29, 2012

What are some ideas and /or opportunities that will increase parental involvement?

Weekly emails from DCSD and/or school

Weekly texts; use of social media

Relationships with staff

Mid-year meeting/update → activities

Messages from Parent Portal (grades/missed assignments)

Mandatory trainings should be the same across DCSD

Revisit scheduling of meetings in order to meet the needs/time constraints of all parents

What kinds of opportunities are available

Reach-back (5th to middle school); peer proofing

Parental knowledge

Vertical articulation

Childcare (safe place for child)

Volunteer (opening our doors to stakeholders)

Parent burnout (spreading too thin)

Direct communication for staff

Implement a parent tutorial to give ways for parents to bring students to standards

Ways teachers are assessed by parents & students (Surveys for students, but what's available for parents?) Fear of retribution?

Wireless in every building

Parents able to act as volunteer paras for overcrowding

Interpreters needed!!

Having a direct contact person so that voices are heard

Receiving a response and the "why" behind the decision

Sharing data with parents so they can begin to answer their own question

Better access to the decision makers

Parental involvement is not a challenge for the Dunwoody cluster

Charter schools

Transparency so parents will want to become involved

Compile information from all groups and share with all the other groups
Legal fees for Crawford Lewis – “what’s up with that?”

What areas within the District are most important for you to know about?

SACS update; all inclusive update

Understanding testing, new initiatives

Quality instruction vs test prep

Class size: What being done? What's the plan?

Relationship between DCSD and DeKalb County

Understanding of how DC issues/priorities affect DCSD

CCRPI and PARCC

Rigor and relevance of Science/SS curriculum

More information about CCGPS

Explanation of hardware policy

Transparency related to 2013-2014 calendar

Unique opportunity for parent dialogue (two-way)

Positions and salaries

SPLOST spending and timelines

RTT spending

What DCSD is doing for teachers?

Conflict between HR and other departments in the district

Will empowered principals actually be empowered?

How is my child doing? Meaningful feedback. Academics for all students

How are they being prepared to compete? EIP at all levels

Where are we?

What are our goals?

Are goals appropriate?

Class sizes/AP classes

Increased workload

Reduction of classes

Teacher salaries

Individual student attention/feedback

Lack of conference time

Curriculum

Data

Textbooks

Budgetary decisions – Why? Rationale?

Listen to teachers

School report card drilled down to teacher level (AP specifically)

Consistent parent portal updates by teachers

Need back up for parent portal → lost data due to crashes

Who is impacted by furloughs?

How do parents handle/voice concerns regarding poor teachers and

administrators? What is the process?

Recycling bad teachers

Finance transparency needed

Gifted vs Special Ed

What are some unique initiatives (method and frequency) that the district can implement to improve communication with parents?

Monthly newsletter from District → District highlights via Constant Contact or such

Divide by Cabinet departments → links to detailed reports; this keeps a district perspective instead of spun by media

Calendar feedback via SurveyMonkey failed

More frequent meetings like this → dialogue at least quarterly

More balanced ways/times to meet → use technology more, innovative ways to interact

More notice of important issues

More advance notice of meetings

Create policy for longer time for pre-published agendas

Parent advocacy group dialog – authentic

Transparent online check book – grant proposals and spending, org chart (positions and salaries), RT3 spending, SPLOST 4 spending and timelines

No messages in Parent Portal

Teacher notes needed

Leverage technology → tie parents in

Involve parents in emailing/communication

Computer in each school, designated for parents

Central location on the website to find basic information

Blog that allows parents to voice their opinion – attached to the website

More direct electronic communication

Bulletin Board that allows parents to “post” questions and get feedback from a district representative

Parental Engagement/Communication Suggestion Box (What topics do you need to know about in meetings such as this?)

How district decisions relate/impact the school/region

Cluster specific forums

Creative solutions to individual needs

Parents as “problem solvers”

School calendar

Why should we stay in DeKalb

HR – what DCSD is doing for our teachers compared to what teachers are asking for

Teacher morale – climate of fear: taxed and maxed out

Drop “do more with less:

Transportation? What? Why? ES, MS

Communication delays

Transportation website not used (public domain)

Use K12 alerts

Lack of English classes/parental support

Paras for KK

Overcrowded classrooms

Parenting skills workshops

Fundraising ideas

How long before DCSD is back on track? Timeline?

When will you bring back furlough days?

Teacher pay leading to good teachers leaving

DCSD be honest about what’s happening

Technology

Learn from other metro districts about what’s going well

Need more information regarding eliminating district positions