

CITIZEN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 8, 2008
MEETING SUMMARY

General Meeting

Sue Venable, Assistant Superintendent, welcomed our CPC members and visiting principals back for a new school year.

Laura Barnes-Johnson, CPC Chair, also greeted everyone and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share what they hoped to gain from CPC this year.

Madeline Herzog, Administrative Assistant, reviewed meeting protocol, minute distribution and asked everyone to review the roster for accuracy.

Food Service – Sara Conroy, Interim Director of Food Services, provided an explanation for the increase in student lunch prices this year. Food and supply expenses went up much more than anticipated last year. Additionally, due to a previous carry over that offset budget shortages, food service prices have not increased since 2003/2004. That carry over is no longer available. A sampling of increased expenses includes a 17% increase in the cost of milk, 13% increase in the cost of rice/pasta, 15% in the cost of cheese, 12% increase in the cost of bread; and increases in fuel, labor, insurance and retirement costs. The Food Service department is an “Enterprise Program” in the district, which means they are self supporting and do not receive funds from the Edmonds School District general fund. They are required to provide 5% of all income back to the district to cover general expenses. The Food Service department researched the increase in fees thoughtfully and thoroughly over this past spring and came to the conclusion that fees must be raised to meet expenses. Additionally, the policy on student IOU’s has been tightened significantly due to a dramatic increase in unrecovered debt. Food Service does not write off debt. While they recognize that the increases are difficult for our district’s families, they need to be fiscally responsible to be able to provide healthy, quality meals for our students. *Note:* As of the printing of these notes, the Food Service department has temporarily suspended their policy of providing a cheese sandwich and milk to those students with balances owing. District and community meetings are scheduled to help find the best possible solution to collecting outstanding debt.

Math Update – Tony Byrd, Assistant Superintendent, gave a brief update on the status of the district-wide math adoption K-5 and 9-12. Every elementary school in the district is now working from the same math curriculum, “Math Expressions”. Teachers were trained over the summer on the new materials. Parent information nights are scheduled for September 9th and 10th. The high schools are also working on a new standard curriculum from Holt McDougall. The district’s focus has now turned to implementation. Throughout the year the district will be monitoring student instruction and developing instructional strategies where necessary.

Subcommittee Work for 2008-2009

Boundaries & Enrollment – Chair, Kate Shelby Martin

Due to very tight time constraints this committee has already met twice in August. They are charged with studying and developing a detailed plan for the consolidation of Woodway Elementary for 2009-2010, Evergreen Elementary for 2009-2010 and of the Terrace Park Middle School (7th & 8th grades only) for 2009-2010. These require final approval by the School Board by December 9, 2008. Extra meetings will be scheduled as necessary to meet their deadlines.

Education – Co Chairs, Jason Strayer and Lisa Speer

This committee will be looking at student progress reporting in light of parents need for information and the work/time expectations for teachers; an alternative calendar for non-student professional development days; the District Improvement Plan (DIP) as it relates to Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals; and will be looking at models for a middle school gifted student program.

Transportation (formerly known as Operations) – Chair, Darylyn Phraner

This committee will be studying cost efficiencies in choice school transportation, with a recommendation due to the school board by December 9, 2008; re-evaluating safe walking routes for students living within one mile of their school (thus changing and/or eliminating bus routes); assessing the implementation of the school start time changes for 2008-2009.

Members then broke into their subcommittee groups to begin their work. Reports will be given at the next meeting.

Announcements

The next CPC meeting is October 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.