

## 9/8/14 915am Parent Coffee Minutes

Attendees: Mr. Greubel, Mrs. Barre and 20 parents.

- Mr. Greubel introduced himself. He grew up in NY, went to college in PA, and has worked for AACPS for 24 years.
- His first position with AACPS was as a special education teacher and head of information technology in Glen Burie, MD. He then took a position as an instructional technology resource teacher to work with schools and teach workshops on how to use computers in the classroom. He earned an MS and post-MS certificate in administration and took a position as a discipline specialist in Brooklyn Park. His next position as a vice principal in middle school re-affirmed his love for elementary education which led to his position as VP in an ES for the next 6 years. Prior to coming to CES, he was principal at Mayo ES.

### Parent questions:

- We are moving from the MSA to a PARCC assessment that will be on computers. Does CES have the technology infrastructure to complete the test online?
  - No, however, we are in a better place than most schools. The county is trying to fill in with Google Chrome books that meet the qualifications of what PARCC assessments says you need. AACPS is trying to pour in resources.
  - Wider window for testing with PARCC which will help since needs to be on the computer; less strict school-wide dates due to computer availability
  - We have a computer lab and a media computer lab and quite a few Google chrome books. All of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders won't be able to take the test all on the same day.
- How efficient do students need to be with the computer keyboard for the PARCC testing?
  - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have wireless keyboards and then upload the information into MS Word for practice. Are using those in the classroom to work on keyboard skills.
  - Using the keyboard does not seem to be a large obstacle for students during gest taking in his experience at Mayo ES (a pilot for the computer version of PARCC last year)
- What is the new policy for open lunch and parent/guardians joining students?

- We are reserving end spaces at one table per class or approximately every other table. Trying this and will reassess, if needed.
- What are the academic focuses here at CES?
  - Focus on writing
    - AACPS has announced an early literacy initiative- progress monitoring boosted reading in K-2
  - A lot of transition in math instruction with initiation of the Common Core. Focus on math reasoning. We have clubs that give students experiences above and beyond classroom learning (clubs: chess, engineering club, environmental club, Sea Perch underwater robots)
- Sometimes student come home with a piece of paper with an assessment score. How do we help them with what was on the test since we can't see the test content?
  - AACPS had previously had a benchmark for math and reading each marking period. With Common Core implementation, AACPS went to skills assessment. There are 3 or 4 math assessments (unit assessment vs. a marking period assessment) and were new last year.
  - AACPS doesn't send home the actual exam because it is county-wide and may be used again next year. Could go meet with the teacher if there are questions.
  - Hard to understand last year because there wasn't much perspective around them since they were new
  - They will be revised as we learn more about the Common Core content
  - The classroom teacher is the best resource
- Is math information supplied for parents online? It is hard for parents to know how to teach students how to best teach them now to do math homework.
  - Parents shared: KHAN Academy and KAPLAN math online can show you how to do things; walks you through steps to a math problem; also You Tube
  - AACPS has purchased math consumable book for students and pages may be coming home. It explains how the math is being taught in the classroom.
  - Back to school night may be an opportunity for parents to ask teachers questions about how to do math.
- How are students divided into homeroom classes each spring?
  - They were built in the spring based upon:
    - A variety of levels in each classroom
    - Built based upon the idea of language arts instruction

- We regroup for math based upon skill based and performance (MSA scores, skills assessments, math grades from the year before, performance series assessments); math groups are fluid and are adjusted throughout the year
  - May also be input from Mrs. Young about special situations
- Has anything changed regarding school security and could you please comment on bus behavior?
  - School security: we are on camera throughout the building and on the outside.
  - We do fire, security and emergency (weather, active shooter, etc) drills; how to do a classroom lockdown
  - Bus behavior: school works with drivers on the bus referral process, assigned seats, if needed. Have students report inappropriate behavior to the CES office
  - Bully instruction done in the classroom by the counselor; differences between bullying, bothering or bossing.
- Concerns about the level of physical activity in PE class
  - PE is skills based instruction, assessing a student's fitness level
  - Early in the school year – band and strings opportunities introduced during the PE class time slot, setting up a routine, doing some assessments.
  - Activities will increase as the school year proceeds

Things to include in the E-Blast:

- Open lunchroom policy
- KAPLAN math online resource