

**Parent Advisory Committee Minutes  
October 3, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Laura Terlip.

PAC members in attendance: Laura Terlip, Julie Creeden, Rowena Tan, Marlene Hills, Mary McDade, Margaret Prophet, Mary Meyer. Many parent guests were also present, as well as UNI teacher ed students from the class of Dr. Gloria Kirkland-Holmes.

Minutes were approved as read.

**Announcements: Laura Terlip**

1. Laura introduced Mary Meyer, alternate PAC member serving for Ken Bleile during his absence.
2. Laura introduced Gloria Kirkland-Holmes who is chairing the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Committee. Gloria reported on her committee's work thus far. The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables initiative is a national program. As of now, no other area schools have acquired this program. If PLS is able to secure the national funding for this program, it will provide daily fresh fruits and vegetables for all PLS students in grades PK - 12. Gloria informed the PAC that the program will be done at PLS with or without this national grant funding, as her group has other sources for funding.
3. The fundraising opportunity that Laura brought to PAC last month has been picked up by JD Cryer and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**Administrative Update: Dave Smith**

1. All of the chairs of the PLS parent, alumni and friend groups have met to discuss ways to enhance communication. A website will be developed and serve as a clearinghouse for all of these groups. This effort is taking place due to the response from last year's PAC parent survey.
2. PLS has been notified by the Cedar Valley Character Counts organization that the week of October 21 - 28 is to be designated as "Character Counts Week." Laura signed the pledge to show the PAC support of this effort. Dave noted that the week will be kicked off at the school with an all school assembly.
3. Dave thanked Gloria Kirkland-Holmes and her committee for their work toward acquiring the funding for fresh fruits and vegetables for all PLS students.
4. Dave assured the PAC that the recent article in the Waterloo Courier stating that the outbreak of staph infection across the state began at NU High was false. He has been in contact with the Black Hawk County Health Department as well as the Courier. The Blackhawk County Health Department assured us that PLS was no connection to the community outbreak of staph.

**New Business:**

**Update on PLS - Current Issues & Future Plans: Bill Callahan**

1. Dr. Callahan began his portion of the meeting by attempting to squelch all rumors that parents may have heard regarding the closing of PLS. He made it clear that he has not been a part of any conversation where the closing of PLS was discussed. He reviewed the three-fold mission of PLS: Quality

education for all PK-12 students; Enhancement of teacher education; and Outreach based on the needs of students across the state of Iowa. He stated that the reason the report of the provost's PLS Task Force was never released was because it was very polarized. It would not have served anyone well by releasing it. He went on to inform the PAC that the Iowa Legislature has created the Feasibility Study Task Force. The members of this task force are as follows:

Ben Allen	President University of Northern Iowa
Judy Jeffrey	Director Iowa Dept. of Education
Sandy Damico	Dean College of Education University of Iowa
David Whaley	Associate Dean Human Sciences Administration Iowa State University
Bill Callahan	Dean College of Education University of Northern Iowa
Bridgette Wagoner	Instructor Price Lab School
Latricia Hylton	Director Upward Bound M/S Center
Katie Mulholland	Superintendent Linn Mar High School
Larry Williams	Superintendent Sioux City
Jim Reese	Chief Bureau of Teaching & Learning Services
Barbara Ohlund	Consultant Bureau of Study and Family Support
Tom Hobson	Senior Manager of Governmental & Public Affairs
Mike Buchheit	Manager Continuous Improvement Pella Corporation
<b><u>Ex-Officio</u></b>	
Gene Vincent	President Iowa State Board of Education

This task force has been mandated by the Iowa Legislature and is co-chaired by Ben Allen and Judy Jeffrey. The possibility of PLS becoming Iowa's Laboratory School is being studied. If this direction were to be approved by the legislature, PLS would be funded on a per-pupil allocation, which would ease the budget problems currently faced by PLS. This task force will conclude its work by December of 2007 and have its report to the Iowa Legislature by January of 2008. It will be dealt with in this legislative session.

**Parent Questions/Issues:**

1. No cell phones are allowed during school hours with the exception of the lunch period for high school students only. Dave encourages parents to contact teachers and/or administrators with any concerns.

2. JD Cryer informed the PAC that Preschool and Kindergarten students stay in class until 11:00. Kindergarteners are dismissed to go to recess at 10:50 to help cut down on the congestion in the lunch room. Kelly Brumm is in charge of supervision of PK students upon dismissal until they are picked up by parents.

3. There is no written policy regarding administrators attending extra-curricular activities. However, Dave Smith has a schedule in place for at least one administrator or designated teacher to attend both home and away events where a large amount of students gather.

4. Parents wishing to enroll their students at PLS are encouraged to complete the application process, regardless of the number of students in the class they are interested in. If the class has been capped, that application would be put onto a waiting list. No one calling PLS inquiring about enrollment should ever be told that the class is full. All inquiries should be forwarded to Mr. Smith's office.

5. Dave assured the PAC that parent requests for specific teachers are kept confidential, and this policy will continue to be stressed.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Creeden