

## **Site Base Team Minutes Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

Present: Crompton, Ravnitzky, Hedgepeth, Belton, Kisha Robinson, Joyner, Weste, Kilgo, Adams, Kerr, Staton, Sharon Crowder, Crockett, Greene

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. Welcome and Introductions (Dr. Belton)**

Dr. Belton called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

### **III. Purpose of Site Base Team (Dr. Belton)**

Dr. Belton went over the **definition and purpose of a site base team**. He stated that a site base team is required by general statute. All of us are stakeholders with parents being the most important, second is the teachers, and last is administration. The site base team gives us an opportunity to come together to see how we can improve Monroe Middle School. We don't have to agree on every issue but need to find common ground on how we can improve the school. It is the job of the principal to make sure that the information presented is accurate.

**Four important issues for the site base team:** Dress Code, Student Agenda/Discipline, Professional Development Dollars, and the Year Round Calendar.

**Parents as Members:** Dr. Belton discussed how parents can become members of site base team. At some schools there is an election. At our school, we do not have an election.

#### **Qualifications of Parents as Members**

Is the person committed to improving the education for all students in the school? The site base team is about all of the children and how we make improvements for all of our students.

Dr. Belton stated that the principal must ensure that he guides the site base team with accurate information and makes recommendations. The site base team has a great deal of authority and can influence decisions in the school. The Site Base Team serves in an advisory capacity.

### **Open Meeting Laws:**

We are obligated under the same laws as the school board. Anyone can attend our meetings but only members can vote. We must give people the opportunity to address the meeting. We can give them a time limit to speak or make a presentation. Three topics that Dr. Belton would like to bring to site base team at a future meeting are: digital readers for the students, and the postage meter and sorter in the front office.

### **Regular Meetings:**

We must post when we have meetings. We will work around schedules of parents. We can look at alternate times for our scheduled meetings if it is not convenient for parent members. We can also call special meeting. We must give 48 hours notice if we call a special meeting. The minutes, the agenda, and the meeting schedule must be posted online.

## **IV. Elect Site Base Team Chair/Co-Chair, Secretary**

Chair: Presides over meetings and sets the agenda.

Vice Chair: Serves if Chair is not present.

Secretary: Handles minutes, communication, and online postings.

Dr. Belton nominated Mr. Hedgepeth for Chair. Ravnitzky seconded the nomination.

Hedgepeth accepted the nomination. All members were in favor. It is noted that

Todd Hedgepeth will serve as Chair for the 2010-2011 Site Base Team.

Dr. Belton nominated Ms. Staton for Co- Chair. Adams seconded the nomination. Staton accepted the nomination. All members were in favor. It is noted that Irene Staton will serve as Co-Chair for the 2010-2011 Site Base Team.

Adams nominated Ms. Todd for Secretary. Dr. Belton seconded the nomination. Todd accepted the nomination. Michele Todd will serve as the secretary for the 2010-2011 Site Base Team.

**Establish Meeting Times:**

All members agreed that mornings are better. It was agreed that the site base team will meet the fourth Thursday each month. Ms. Todd will look at calendar and will set up meeting dates to email to team. There may be some months where meeting dates will change due to holidays, intercessions, etc. There also may be some months where we have to meet more frequently.

**V. Officer Kilgo Safety Presentation**

Officer Kilgo discussed ways that we can make the school safer. Kilgo discussed the implementation of having metal detection performed every 8-9 weeks. Kilgo has worked with Nash at Monroe High School where every child is checked or hand wanded when they come in the school. This method has been effective at Monroe High School. We will utilize teachers to assist in the process. All book bags will be checked. This process does take a great deal of time. The better it is set up, it won't be an issue and will not distract from the school. This procedure will soon be set up at all of the schools. Safety is our number one concern. Teachers will have tables set

up to go through book bags. Teachers will be trained on how to look through bags and how to use hand wands.

Mr. Hedgepeth asked: “What are the legal boundaries for searching students?” Kilgo responded “It is definitely allowed and has been approved by Central Office. The school has the legal right to search book bags once students come on campus.

Students will be wanded but pockets will not be searched. If something is suspicious, law enforcement can go further.

Mr. Hedgepeth asked: “What are you looking for?” Kilgo responded “We are looking to keep students safe and are mainly looking for weapons. Mr. Hedgepeth asked “How many incidents do you usually see?” Kilgo responded “It varies. With weapons we mostly see knives. We see five or six knives a year.” Kilgo said that he usually finds knives from information given to him from other students.

Hedgepeth added that there also might be other items that are inappropriate such as stink bombs and other items that might disrupt or cause problems at school.

One parent asked “How often are you confronted with disruptions?” Officer Kilgo responded that it is random and varies. Stink bombs this week. No set pattern.

The parent stated that her concern is a student who is not a trouble student being randomly searched due to 5 or 6 problem students. Officer Kilgo responded that on one is being singled out. Everyone will be searched. This procedure has proven itself at Monroe High and across the board. It is effective and eliminates problems.

One parent asked “How many other schools are doing random searches?” Officer Kilgo responded that he knew that all of the high schools are now doing searches.

One parent stated that she has a lot of concern about the wand and scan searches. Officer Kilgo stated that Monroe High School has walk through detectors but we are not looking into that.

Mr. Hedgepeth mentioned the dress code. He said that he did not feel like the dress code was being enforced last year. He has been encouraged by what he has seen this year. It sends a message that we are serious.

Kilgo said that the implementation of these searches comes from things that have been implemented and have been successful at Monroe High School. We want to make Monroe Middle as safe as we can make it.

Dr. Belton stated that these searches are not something that we are going to start tomorrow. The first step at MMS is to bring this idea to the site base team. All concerns are being documented. Dr. Belton said that we need to find out if other schools have implemented these searches. What were their concerns and how did they handle it? All information should be and will be communicated to parents.

Dr. Belton also stated that dress code is one of our biggest concerns.

Ms. Weste asked: "Are the students going to be told about these searches?"

Dr. Belton responded that everyone will be informed. Information will be on the web site, connect eds, assemblies, etc.

Ms. Weste asked about the reactions of students. Kilgo responded that the students need to be informed. Most kids go through detectors and don't have a problem. It is effective. Knowing that it is going to happen and being informed, they will be prepared.

Greene stated that it prepares children and makes them feel safe. It gives students the feeling of “I know I am safe when I come here.”

Officer Kilgo added “Every child needs to feel safe. We need to aid them in knowing that we are doing all that we can do to keep them safe.”

Hedgepeth added that we are also sending a message to good kids that they are being protected. Hedgepeth asked if this would be something that could open up to a larger meeting and present to parents.

Weste stated that rumors fly when a child is pulled off to the side. So and so was caught with such and such. She asked how we would handle these rumors.

Kilgo stated that it would be done in such a way that a big scene is not made.

One parent asked at what point would a parent be called if they found something?

Kilgo responded, “We would call immediately.”

Greene responded to the comment about rumors: We are more worried about protecting students.

Weste: But the kids would know that a child has brought a weapon. Rumors are taken home. Parents would be calling wanting an explanation.

Hedgepeth said that it would need to be emphasized that we are looking for anything inappropriate.

Dr. Belton commented: This kind of search is not intrusive. It would not reveal stink bombs. He reemphasized that this will not start tomorrow. If the police department decides that they want to pursue this idea, we will find a happy medium. The police

understand the concerns of parents. Children who are following rules have nothing to worry about. He said that he doesn't mind being searched at the airport or at Panthers games. There will be a great deal of communication that will go into it. The people who have the weapons are the ones who have something to worry about.

Hedgepeth recommended that we have an open meeting where we can share information.

Dr. Belton said that this would be a great idea and that we could get the school board attorney and the police officers there.

Hedgepeth suggested that we even do a demo.

It was suggested that we have the meeting on Thursday, October 21, at 6:00 p.m.

## **VI. School Improvement Plan**

The School Improvement Plan will be sent to everyone via email. The Site Base Team will receive the opportunity to read it. At our next meeting we will need to take action on the plan. The draft will be posted online. We will need to take a vote to approve any recommendations. Members should read the plan before coming to the next meeting. Send any questions regarding the plan to Ms. Todd via email.

## **VII. Open Forum**

Dr. Belton mentioned that the 5K Race is coming up. Asked all members to read the story on the web site and asked for support. Promoting healthy eating, active lifestyles, and addressing childhood obesity. 4<sup>th</sup> year we have done the race. It has grown every year. The meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be on September 28 at 7:45 a.m.