

Arcadia Elementary Community Council  
Minutes from 9/19/08 meeting  
Next Meeting October 9, 2008 12:00-1:00

Chair: Leslee Petrick, parent  
Vice-Chair: Liz Carol, teacher  
Sec.: Jill Loertscher, parent

In attendance: Terri Roylance, Liz Carol, Leslee Petrick, Kystal Plott, Shanae Jackson, Jill Loertscher, Nicole Wilson. All members in attendance.

Visitors: Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Rothe 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers at Arcadia

\*Liz Carol will be the Vice-Chair on Community Council, teacher representative.

\*1<sup>st</sup> grade classes are small in the morning with 4 teachers. In the afternoon the class sizes go over 30 students because the district can only fund 3 full time teachers and 1 part time teacher. The final numbers came in on September 15<sup>th</sup> for final FTE disbursement, 22.5 teachers. There is not enough students to change the 1 part time teacher to full time. The faculty and principal had a meeting and asked if the teachers would be willing to have less aids so QTSA and trustland money could be used to fund this full time position. The faculty agreed that the 1<sup>st</sup> grades need was the greatest. The community council also agreed to use a larger portion of our funding to hire Mrs. Webber full time. We will still have aids but they will not get as many hours with this change.

\*Reviewed calendar items for PTA activities and SEP dates for November. A discussion was given about changing SEP to Wednesday and Thursday, November 19 and 20<sup>th</sup>. This would allow families to travel for Thanksgiving rather than having SEP's the night before. The faculty would be split on this change but we felt the teachers would also benefit by having more time with their families. The PTA was also holding an Arts at Arcadia the evening of the 20<sup>th</sup> and felt it would give better attendance at this activity. We also agreed on the SEP changes so families would not have to come to school 3 nights in a row.

\*Reviewed dates for upcoming meetings for Community Council for the year. The dates will be posted on the front window doors on Monday.

\*Began a break down of where we would like to spend the rest of QTSA money and school trustland money.

- a) For professional development section the school would like to send K-6<sup>th</sup> grade to the core academy conference. This conference has a science and math emphasis. The teachers who have gone felt it was worth the money and felt it would help our math and science scores improve.
- b) Because more trustlands monies are going to the FTE for 1<sup>st</sup> grade we have less money. The library was in need of new books. Originally we allocated \$1500.00 for new library books. This money is no longer available. The community council proposed that one of the PTA bookfairs could provide some new books for the library instead. The PTA representative, Shanae Jackson, is actually a member of community council. She said instead of "buy one get one free" at the November SEP's we could do the traditional bookfair which would raise more money for books for the school. The SEP conferences in March could still be "buy one get one free" so the families could get books into their homes. Shanae will present it to the PTA board on October 2<sup>nd</sup> for a vote.

\*Last year's testing showed that 1<sup>st</sup> grade had the lowest scores for reading. Peter Campbell, reading specialist, will focus most of his efforts to the now 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

\*5<sup>th</sup> grade diebels were also low; the principal is looking at how to improve that.

\*test scores went down in math last year. This was because of a new math curriculum and that the tests did not reflect the material learned. The benchmark changed that year so the scores were not an accurate reflection of true test scores. That problem should be resolved this year.

- ESL students are up in greater percentages; this also impacts higher level math problems because the students cannot read the questions accurately. The nation does not allocate more ELL aids even when the numbers go up, Arcadia has 2 aids. The teachers are doing the best they can with the resources and demographics. One 6<sup>th</sup> grade class has 15 ELL learners and yet another 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class has 4 ELL.