

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
CHOCONUT VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
MEETING DATE OCTOBER 28, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Community Advisory Committee Meeting

28 OCTOBER 2010

Community Advisory Committee Members Present: Richard Jordan and Diana Bean,

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky

Board Members Present: Pam Staats, Chris Caterson, Mary Homan and Kathy Mordovancey

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

Items Discussed:

I. Mike Ognosky took the roll and noted the attendance as listed above.

II. Old Business: The following item was presented under Old Business

- **Administration Offices Building Project:** Mr. Ognosky reviewed the current status of the Administration building project. The foundation work is proceeding a bit slower than originally scheduled due to the amount of rain that we have had in the past three weeks. The original occupancy date was set for December 3rd and that has now been pushed back to December 17th. The actual construction of the modular buildings on site at Simplex Homes has continued on schedule and they are now 90 % completed. Delivery on site is scheduled for a time period between November 4th and November 10th. The 6 boxes will be placed at the end of the teacher parking lot and will remain there until the foundation is prepared. Quotes are due in the office by the middle of next week regarding the demolition and removal of the old administration building.
- **Questions Regarding the PSSA Report:** Members present reported that since the October meeting they have had the opportunity to go on line and navigate through the material on the web page regarding our most recent PSSA scores. All were able to do so without any major questions or concerns – the site is very helpful in providing thorough information regarding the test performance by the

students in all three schools. You can get to the site by clicking on the report card on the front of the webpage.

III. New Business: The following items were discussed under New Business:

- **Review and Input on Policy 707:** Mr. Ognosky led a discussion of the group regarding Policy 707. Recently, questions have arisen regarding the use of the gymnasiums by “select” teams and adult groups. Mr. Ognosky explained that our current philosophy is to allow utilization of our gymnasium to students and adults in the district as frequently as possible – a “user friendly” approach. All members present agreed with the openness of the buildings and all felt that it was an integral thread of our community relations. Mr. Ognosky asked about a number of specific scenarios in order to gather input for the November Work Session when a discussion of the entire board will be held regarding the Policy:
 - ✓ The first information point regarded the utilization of the gym by “select” teams that involve Montrose Area School District students. A select team is one in which the members are not offered the opportunity to ‘try out’ for the team, but the coach merely selects members to be involved based on prior performance or personal choice. In the past this has been done with both elementary soccer and basketball programs. Currently, the coaches are encouraged to offer open tryouts, but the district does not require that in order for utilization of the gymnasium. After discussion, the consensus was that the District should continue the current procedure in this regard.
 - ✓ The second point discussed was the utilization of the gym by groups that were not made up exclusively of Montrose Area School District students. Some of the groups utilizing our facilities include students from other local school districts – elementary soccer program, American Legion baseball teams, etc. After discussion, the consensus was that the District should continue to allow those groups equal access to our facilities as long as there is Montrose Area School District as part of those groups.
 - ✓ A third point discussed was the scheduling of teams into the facility given the tight scheduling opportunities that exist in each gym. Currently, the principal of each building schedules the groups and, when conflicts arise, works with the groups in coming to a satisfactory solution to the scheduling conflict. Scheduling is done on a first come-first serve basis for time slots and, at times, there have been conflicts among groups regarding premium time slots and days. A suggestion from the committee was to have a deadline for application for seasonal gym use and the principal can then utilize a lottery for the selection of times and days.
 - ✓ Finally, Mr. Ognosky asked the group’s opinion should the gymnasium space be filled and groups would be denied use of the gym. The group felt strongly that should that case arise, the adult groups would be the first to be denied the use of the facilities.

IV. Open Forum: Items of discussion during the open forum included the following:

- Richard Jordan asked that the Board and Administration consider the hiring of an additional guidance counselor at the Junior-Senior High School. Following discussion, Mr. Jordan will provide an outline of his request for consideration. It will be forwarded to Mr. Ognosky and he will get that to the remainder of the committee for discussion at the November 18th meeting.
- Diana Bean asked a question regarding bullying in the schools and to what extent the administration considers it to be a concern. Mr. Ognosky explained that it is probably our chief concern regarding the student population. Bullying has taken on new forms in the past 5-10 years with the advent of cyber bullying, my space accounts, face book accounts and instant messaging. The district has sponsored numerous programs for students – many have been very effective in addressing the problem, but it still continues. The District will also utilize the next two in-service days to provide information to the professional staff regarding the issue.
- Mr. Ognosky explained that Choconut Valley will be utilizing a different model of parent –teacher conferencing for the upcoming parent conferences in 5th and 6th grade as each teacher at the grade level has approximately 100 students – all teachers have all of the 5th and 6th graders. Teachers will not be scheduling individual appointments at those grade levels.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010
at 7p.m. at the JSHS Community Learning Center.**

Submitted by

Mike Ognosky