

Draft PTO Meeting minutes 6-15-04

Special meeting to address issues regarding the Burr School Community.

Lisa Mirabile opened the meeting with a statement from the PTO co-presidents and introduced **Cindy Bencal, Principal**. Cindy introduced and thanked special guests Superintendent Jeffrey Young and Assistant Superintendent Judy Malone Neville. Cindy then restated the events that led to this special meeting.

Dr. Jeffrey Young welcomed the audience and stated the purpose of this meeting. Dr. Young acknowledged that the Burr School Community was in stress, that there was a lot of upset, misunderstanding, and miscommunication. He also recognized the purpose of this meeting was not about one group prevailing over another, but to find better ways to live together.

Dr. Young then encouraged the audience to read the data collected to date. This data was compiled from written correspondence that took place in the general Burr PTO e-mail forum as well as additional observation from staff and parents. The presentation of this data was in no particular order.

After the audience finished reading the data, Dr. Young described the data as a picture of Burr School today, no matter what the issue. He then opened the floor for questions. Members of the audience shared their thoughts and feelings regarding the May 17th announcement and the communications that followed.

Dr. Young concluded the discussion with a proposal for next steps. They include:

- Reflect over the summer regarding what had transpired
- Return in the fall and initiate a process around Community Building
- Bring in outside help, for instance a consultant to facilitate another meeting in the future
- Improved communications
- Resist the impulse to create a quick and easy solution
- To return in the fall with a more concrete plan in how to move forward

In conclusion, Cindy Bencal then restated the concerns that she had heard from the audience during the discussion. They include:

- Improved communications
- Is there a way to institute policy and/or guidelines regarding particular subject matter into the curriculum?
- All parents have rights
- All children and parents need to feel safe

Submitted by Kelly McDade