

Middle School Committee ETL

January 23, 2007

6:00 to 8:00

Attendance: Nate Reynolds, Nichole Reynolds, Sue Luppino, Peter Curro, Ruth Harper, Nancy Bigos, Shannon Madden, Bill Randolph, Margaret Dondiego

Agenda – we will continue to follow the original agenda from January 9, 2007.

Sue and Cathy surveyed all of the seventh grade students for input in terms of what kinds of activities they would like and/or what kind of day they would like. Results were shared with committee.

Upon reviewing the Planning Guide for Designing an Expanded learning Time School, it became obvious that the first step will be to develop a staff survey and parent survey to assess whether or not we have support for the ETL because without we are “Dead in the water”. We reviewed a survey that had already been sent out to elementary parents. We would like our survey to be different, have a more positive spin and some information about ETL. We have to be careful in the wording though as there’s a fine line between sounding as if we’re selling something and merely stating the facts. We want input from parents in terms of what they would like to see and whether or not they would support the idea overall. It is important to include that ETL would be mandatory for students (optional for staff). It is important not to leave the survey too open-ended. We could possibly attach the results of the “unofficial 7th grade survey” also. The quote “The students’ needs and interests drive the school design” is essential. We could also include the website.

We reviewed some Frequently Asked Questions to include in the survey, which will be sent to current 4th – 7th grade parents. Not sure if we can use the grant money to include self-addressed envelopes to ensure results return.

We will also need to create surveys for staff, students and community resources. The staff survey must specifically survey interest and expected compensation. Many resources already exist in the community who may be willing to participate. We need to survey

community partners – identify and secure potential partners. Nichole pointed out the many resources in the community including Country Journal, Huntington Dance Center, GYAA, the Wellness Center, etc. Bill also discussed the potential of working with Pat Miller, at Westfield State, who is very aware of ETL and is willing to come and discuss some options.

I WILL EMAIL TO EVERYONE FOR INPUT
NEXT MEETING FEB 6TH