

Para Meeting 10/6/09

Present: Dana Holtmeyer- McLouth Middle, Joanie Drimmel- ACCS-Int., Marlene Jolly-Jeff West ES, Kim Banks –JCN-MS, Perri Levin-Oskie, Emily Bare-JCN-Elem. Perri Levin and Emily Bare are absent tonight.

Representation: There are concerns about lack of representatives from Valley Falls and Perry-Lecompton. Tammy Van Dyne will serve as backup for McLouth. Marlene will try to get a representative from the Ozawkie building. JCN is ok. Valley Falls and Perry-Lecompton we need to find representation. Jeanette will be asked to suggest representatives for Valley Falls and PL. Linda will send a personal invitation to these individuals.

Meeting Dates/Times: It was determined that meetings will begin at 3:45 and end no later than 5:15. Future dates:

**November 17-Tuesday, January 6-Wednesday, February 10- Wednesday, March 31,-
Wednesday, May 12-Wednesday**

Linda will estimate cost of mileage and wages associated with the Para Study Committee and present this information to the Board.

Linda sees more stress with paras, teachers, and administration. Projection is that the times in education are going to get rougher. More Free and Reduced students are being identified and districts are likely to deal with further cuts in State aid.

Handbook: Marlene brought up concerns with the Para handbook. Linda explained that the handbook initially posted on the website in August was a preliminary draft. This draft was later replaced by the handbook approved by the Board.

Specific issues regarding the handbook were listened to and addressed. Paras present from other districts indicated that the handbook was not a concern.

H1N1: If school is closed, paras do not get paid for that day but they can use personal days.

Contract Hours: There were questions regarding the 31 hour para cap. Linda explained the rationale behind the decision and also talked about how many para timesheets actually rounded to 31.25 hours. Linda said her recommendation to the Board, for this year, was to modify contracts, as needed, to allow for the additional .25 hours/week.

Infinitec: Robin & Rhonda reviewed directions on how to get to and use the site. Robin will send a media mail reminder to help paras to access Infinitec.

Inservice Hours: There is reduced time for teachers and paras to communicate and to log in-service hours. Rhonda and Robin discussed the need to log smaller amounts of time. In addition, Linda will talk with superintendents about allocation of in-service time, as needed, for specific student needs. In order to maximize categorical aid, paras in their first three years need to log 20 in-service hours. Paras in year four and beyond, pending good evaluations, need 10 hours.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 3:45 in the Keystone Oskaloosa Office.