

Whither Parent Group?

1. I like a clear agenda with each item assigned an expected time length. It's best if this is in writing - either handouts with time estimates in the margin, or on the whiteboard. If closure isn't reached as the time is running out, get a group agreement before adding more time. Otherwise, get a vote/close discussion or put matter off for a later time.
2. I'm frustrated when a few participants monopolize discussion or too much time is spent on minor or less significant matters. It would be good to have expectations about these kinds of things agreed to at a meeting early in the school year and have it posted for the meeting facilitator to refer to over the course of the year.
3. I see the Parent Group as critical to the success of an optional program. I liken it to the "three-legged stool" of ideal educational practice: student/teacher/parent working together as equal partners creating a positive and supportive learning environment. Sometimes the communication (what's happening/when and what are we supposed to do) is lacking or unclear. The Parent Group is an important way to improve communication, since depending on students/staff alone to know what's going on often doesn't work.

Thanks, again! Hope I can be there, but if not I'd appreciate if you could share these thoughts.

Janice

From Staff

- Parent Liaison Duties: E-tree, coordinate events for advisory groups,
- Take on Fundraising (Auction; Gaming Permit; Teacher wish list nest eggs)
- Coordinate volunteers (have a volunteer committee) for dances, Olympics, back to school events, library, teaching workshops, intensives, classes etc.
- Communications: Monitoring sign up on Flash and website; Directory; Update Parents; Responsibilities Sheet: outline communication trails
- Parent Orientation Night: Highlight Website, Flash sign-up, volunteer chart; STRESS use of technology for communication.
- Update Facility/Capital Improvements
- Lobby for Ed/Tech person