

## **October 6, 2005 DWPC Meeting**

Madeline Hoetger called the meeting to order at 9:45. The meeting was begun with a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted by Nadine Ferraro and seconded Kristin Casciaro. The treasurer's report was given by Vera Rubeo. Vera had a correction from last month, the amount in the account should have been \$39.71, this month the amount in the account is \$79.71. We are still waiting to getting dues from several schools. If you are one of those schools please try and get your check in next month.

### **Board Presentation – Maureen Bowers**

Secondary schools report was supposed to take place last night but was not presented due to a time issue it will be presented at the next Board meeting. Erinn Parese has been chosen as the new Director of Prevention. The Audit of the school district is ready and is available for viewing. The report of the special education report done last year was also presented. This report is also available. The National School Board conference is taking place the end of the month and at this time three board members are planning on attending the meeting. The legal challenge to the NCLB act and the funding of the state mandates are two areas that are going to be discussed at the conference. Discussion was also brought up regarding the Senator Bonacic presentation on alternative funding for the schools this meeting took place in Rosendale. Assemblymen Cahill is also having a presentation the end of Oct. to discuss school funding.

### **Administrative Announcements – Gerard Gretzinger – Superintendent of Schools**

Erinn Parese has been chosen as the new Director of Prevention to take the position left by Maggie Anderson, his new office will be at George Washington Elementary. He will be able to assist with the new safety program that has been set up at GW by the principal. The Assistant superintendent of Business position has been advertised. The position is being advertised as either an Assistant Superintendent of Business position or Business Manager. The deadline is next week. October is Tribute to Women month – several women are being honored in the district. For Excellence in Education, Val Hannum principal of Graves Elementary will be honored at a dinner in Newburgh at Anthony's Pier One. Two other women being honored are Cheryl Oliver (DWPC rep and secretary) and Therese Raad Higgins (vice principal at Miller) both are being honored this month at the YWCA's Tribute to Women.

Mr. Gretzinger also brought up the fact that we need to get out into the public and see some positives. Some comments were made that maybe we need to look at the Kingston Times as an alternative publication and people really need to write letters if they do have concerns. A lot of great things are happening in our schools and we would like to see some positive press regarding these positives.

Nadine double checked with Mr. Gretzinger about the date for the Up Close and Personal. We are set and ready to go with the Tues, Nov.1 date at the high school.

### **Sandy Miller – Assistant Superintendent of Student Services**

Sandy Miller discussed the review presented by the state at last night's meeting the overall presentation that was done last evening at the meeting was very well received. Sandy went into great detail providing members with the background that went into setting up of the review and its goal. The focus for the review was the elementary level and so that being the target group Sandy set up the focus groups that would meet with the state. The State Ed department was in control and set the guidelines. The audit was completed from Oct to April. Sandy chose people from the whole district not just centering on the 11 elementary schools. She discussed in detail the process that she went through just preparing the schools for the audit. Of the 54 areas that the state looked at our district was found to have flaws in only 9 of these areas. Sandy has already begun to implement plans to correct these areas.

One area that is currently being implemented in the district is that of inclusion. Several elementary schools are pilot schools they are GW, Edson, and Zena. Sandy is going to be adding other schools throughout the district. Graves is already doing a lot with inclusion at all levels.

The district has a three year plan that will be used to meet the criteria set up by the state. Areas being looked at are – decreasing the number of student’s classified, looking at students and seeing which ones can be mainstreamed (can receive more instruction within the realms of the regular classroom, and decrease the residential rate (those student’s that have to attend school in special schools outside the district). A lot of training is being done. Behavioral training is a big area that will be worked on. The student with a weakness in one area is the student that needs to be helped now a support system is going to be made available for that child to get the help needed in that one area. Sandy also discussed some of the programs going on at the high school level.

## **Old Business**

Up close and Personnel – The evening will be taking place at Nov 1 at the high school. Nadine passed out the flyers for the Up Close and Personal please take the info back to your schools and give them to the secretary to be distributed the week of Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>. Try to get this info out into school newsletters and on calendars. We spent a lot of time discussing the evening. We also had an in depth discussion about facilities.

**Note: Please get the word out in your schools about the Up Close and Personal night at the high school. We’d love to see a lot of people come out and meet the administrators, get their questions answered and get a tour of the high school.**

## **Roundtable Discussion**

Edson - Brook’s chicken barbeque was very successful, successful Back to School night, photos are being done, Gertrude Hawk fundraiser will be occurring in Oct.

Meagher – hurricane Katrina fundraisers, dance is coming up, Book Fair and photos

Chambers – finishing a candy sale, Hurricane Katrina fundraiser, Harvest festival,

High School – Oct 25 PTA meeting, homecoming and back to school went great, fundraisers are going on

Graves – school photos were done, first meeting will be taking place next week

Bailey – fundraisers, Nov 5 Bailey plaza will be taking place 10-4 home based businesses will be selling products – a raffle will also be taking place, Back to School went well, PTO next week

Sophie Finn – Yankee Candle fundraiser, Back to School night and book fair went well, more field trips and assemblies are being planned, and automatic hand sanitizer is working great

Zena – PTA meeting, fundraiser went well, pictures are taking place,

Miller – confusion on the PTO meeting a mix up on dates occurred, open house went well, a lot of great things going on, fundraisers, hurricane Katrina fundraisers, craft fair will be taking place in a couple of weeks

Myer – flyers were available about a yard sale and flea market on Oct 15, and a penny social on Oct 21 all of the proceeds are for the playground.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:44 our next meeting will be on Thur. Nov. 3

Everyone please be at the high school on Tues. Nov 1 at 6:00 to help with set up.

Minutes submitted by Cheryl Oliver

Minutes not official until approved at the next meeting.