

Longfellow Site Council Meeting  
Monday, November 26, 2007

**Members Present:** Barb Edwards, Tami Jones, Dan Charron, Lisa Trent, Sharon Bird, Crystal Sandberg, Paul & Maria Hernandez, Jennifer Galindo and Seanna Wright

**Members Absent:** Todd/Annie Boggs

**SPS Site Councils:** Barb went over the Site Council purpose, member responsibilities, and membership information.

**State of the Schools Report:** The site council had an opportunity to view the State of the Schools Report Card; Barb feels that our improvement in scores ties directly into our emphasis on learning. The different programs offered give our students many opportunities to learn. We work hard on teaching to the different learning styles of our student through our make math mine program and our vocabulary interventions. Longfellow met annual yearly progress in all areas. This was an improvement over last year's scores.

Many of the school districts in the state of Nebraska have moved towards a point of instruction testing model up until last year Scottsbluff Public Schools had been administering the ESU 13 STARS Tests. These tests were given once and there was no opportunity of retesting. The district has worked hard and has developed point of instruction tests. These are called the Scottsbluff Public Schools STARS.

Scottsbluff Schools has worked very hard and has gone through many steps in order to provide our students with reliable tests. Barb emphasized the importance of using the tests as a teaching tool versus a "drop dead" assessments that we were using before. Previously our students have been given an assessment and if they don't pass with a qualified score they are taught the information again and given the test again. Emphasis is always put on the teaching process.

**Longfellow School Improvement Plan:** Longfellow does not have all students reading at grade level. Reading continues to be the main goal at Longfellow. Longfellow is working on comprehension reading strategies, developing vocabulary across content areas and increasing direct instruction time by at least 30 minutes each day.

**Accelerated Reader** – Barb would like teachers and Site Council to do some research on the effectiveness of the Accelerated Reader program. The questions asked on the Accelerated Reader quizzes are written at a very literal level. These questions do not demand a lot of higher level thinking. It seems that many students are really more interested in the points gained from taking the different tests versus learning from the book and learning to love reading. It was decided that Barb would send the Site Council Members some information on the Accelerated Reading Program and some information on some other research based reading programs that we can learn about.

Site Council members all feel that continual reading growth is so important and because of that we need to remain diligent in continually looking for the best teaching practices and programs available.

**Smart Board/Interactive Board:** The Scottsbluff Public Schools Foundation has given Seanna Wright and her classroom the opportunity to utilize the Smart Board. The computer is projected on to the Smart Board. The students and teacher can interact with the material on the board. The teacher can walk around the room and continue to control the material on the board. The students can write on the board and the material can be saved to the computer. The resources of the internet are available to the classroom at all times.

**Computers on Wheels (COW) -** There are two different carts of lap top computers. Each cart has 18 computers. The carts can be rolled into the classroom and utilized by the individual students. There is one cart on the top floor and one cart on the lower floor.

**December Meeting:** Site Council will meet at 6:00p.m.on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 1505 Avenue F (Barb's home). Topics that will be discussed include Standard's Based Report Cards, Accelerated Reader.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:25p.m.