

Key Communicator November 2nd Meeting Summary

The key communicators of PISD had their first meeting of 2009-10 with the PISD Board and senior administrators on November 2nd, 2009. The discussion focused on Feeder School Alignment process, the district's academic performance in standardized tests (a copy of this data can be found in the Jasper front office), and district-parent communication.

Feeder Schools Alignment:

On the issue of Feeder School alignment the School Board President, “Lloyd “Skip” Jenkins, announced that the board has formed 2 subcommittees: one to analyze the socioeconomic impact of the original proposals (models around the nation are being studied), a second committee that is looking into the effect of splitting/not splitting Jasper students to Plano and Plano West. They hope to arrive at a final decision on December 15th. For updates please follow this link - <http://www.pisd.edu/feeder.realignment.committee/FeederAlign.html> Student success across the district is determined by student self-motivation, parent involvement, qualified teachers, and demanding curriculum.

Academic Performance:

Supervisor of Counselors, Paul Weaver provided data to show PISD students' performance in standardized tests. A copy of this information is available in the Jasper front office. We are on of very few districts nationally to have our writing scores go up. PISD also had 90 National

Merit Semifinalists last year. He also mentioned that PISD has the largest AP program in the state of Texas with 27+ AP course offerings. The cost of AP tests are \$86 and discounts are available on a need basis. Some pointers from Mr. Weaver:

- SAT tests are administered at all Senior Highs and Collin County Community College – you take the test as many as 7 times and only the best score is reported.
- Writing is required in the SAT
- Writing is optional in the ACT
- Which is better to take SAT or ACT or BOTH? Check the college of your/your student's interest to see what they prefer. Some take both tests.
- On the ACT the following scores are considered as indicators of success in college:
 - English 18
 - Algebra 22
 - Social Studies 21 (ACT Reading is used to measure success in this subject)
 - Biology 24 (ACT Science is used)

Communication:

Diane Lutz, director of learning media services, briefed us on academic resource available to PISD families. The state provides funds for some of the digital resources through TEA K-12 funding and PISD provides additional funding. Students have access to these resources at school and home. Ebooks are also accessible. These can be accessed via the Parent Portal <http://mypisd.net>. This is the same location you visit to check your student's grades. If you do

not have an account setup, you can do so by visit <http://mypisd.net>

After you login look for the “Library Resources” icon on the left bottom portion of the screen and you will have instant access to hundreds of resources.

PISD keeps parents informed through various means such as <http://pisd.edu>, enews, Twitter, and Facebook. The PISD twitter link is http://twitter.com/plano_schools and the Facebook link is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Plano-TX/Plano-Independent-School-District/119448087707> . You can access these links from the PISD website as well. If you haven't signed up for enews please do so as it delivers up to date info to your email. Stay connected!!