

Bromwell PTA Meeting Minutes October 9, 2012

This meeting was held at 12:00 pm in Room B-4

An update from the CSC covered the following:

1. Bond Issue and Mill Levy
2. Assessments from March, 2012 – data is being reviewed by staff who are working to improve student performance with meaningful instruction
3. Rollout of Accelerated Reader to Classrooms, through a grant from the Carmel Hill Fund
4. Professional Development –Jody Cohn is using District and other resources to increase the amount of time she is able to spend in classrooms to focus on instruction.

Annual Fund update reminded us all that the focus this year is on participation at the grade levels. Participation was at 21% as of October 9, 2012. Updates will continue through the Buzz and other sources, fundraising via the annual fund ends October 31, 2012.

A guest speaker from the Carmel Hill Fund talked about the resources provided to Bromwell and how they are being implemented in classrooms.

1. Carmel Hill Fund is a non-profit, focused on supporting independent reading.
2. Their implementation specialist is working with teachers to roll-out the program which includes:
 - a. Accelerated Reader (a DPS tool) which measures literal reading comprehension and enables differentiated instruction.
 - b. At least 2 new computers for each literacy/reading classroom.
 - c. Resources to fill gaps in school library.
 - d. Best practices and training for teachers
 - e. Individualized data point for all students to help identify their “sweet spot” or ZPD which is the reading level at which optimal learning takes place without becoming frustrational for the student.
3. Program applies specifically to the single independent reading block in the daily schedule.
4. Teachers continue to use a variety of tools and data points to assess reading, including those mandated by the district and their own experience.

The following issues and suggestions were raised:

1. There are growing pains associated with the Accelerated Reader program, teachers, the Carmel Hill Implementation Specialist and Jody are working hard to address these issues as the year-long rollout takes place.
2. Teachers will be providing parents with additional details and resource links at conferences re: Accelerated Reader.
3. Is there capacity at Bromwell for a Birthday Book Club which would help families to further fill in gaps in the library by donating books from a list and have that recognized via a bookplate.
4. Availability of and access to middle and upper grade materials in the library.