Dr. Rayner Browne Elementary #25

IMMEDIATE ACTION SUB-COMMITTEE
Claudette Brown, Chairperson

Principal’s Report
February 10, 2004

Highlights (July 2003 - February 2004)

1. Additional Partnerships
   - Ray Lewis Foundation (achievement and attendance incentives)
   - Office Depot (school and office supplies)
   - Downtown Locker Room (achievement and attendance incentives)
   - Circle of Positive Black Men (mentoring, tutorial services, monitoring students during activities, sports leagues, cultural enrichment experiences, etc.)
   - YMCA (21st Century Grant application process)
   - Maryland Horticulture Society (Edible Gardens Project)

2. Partnership Activities
   - Successful Toddler Fair co-sponsored by Success by Six East Baltimore Collaborative; planned by Traci McLemore and DRBES
   - Hosted successful Success By Six - Emergent Literacy Workshop for daycare providers in the community; additional SB6 activities scheduled throughout the year
   - Senator Nathaniel McFadden’s promise fulfilled; annual contribution to support the School Store by Whiting-Turner (PBIS, attendance, achievement and parental involvement incentives)
   - State of the Art Playground under construction (BCD Recreation and Parks)
   - Increased number of referrals to Family Preservation - HFST
   - Extensive family support provide through partners, and city and community agencies; clothing pantry (MCI); Holiday party (FLB, Inc); Christmas bags and gifts for families (MCI); Christmas bags and gifts (States Attorney’s Office); Holiday Food packages (School Food Pantry); Hats and gloves (Diamond Plan - Stephanie Makle); Coats (Volunteer - Lila Makle)
   - Wonder Wheels Field Trip experience (MCI)

3. Invited to participate in the Community Engagement Forum to share family and community partnership initiatives; principal was joined by Michael Cenci (FLB, Inc.) who shared history and goals of the IAS

4. Successful Community Forum (Family Fun and Learning Night); over 150 in attendance

5. 21st Century Grant written in collaboration with YMCA and Robert Coleman Elementary; potentially $1.5 Million over three years to fund after school programming designed to increase student achievement through increased instructional time and cultural enrichment activities. The academic focus in Core Knowledge; cultural enrichment partners include Baltimore School of Protocol, Clayworks,

6. Selected for complete library renovation project

State of the School

Budget

1. Loss of two Surplus Teachers (UTE/PSS); expected; not included in budget or staffing model

2. Loss of Elementary Guidance Counselor - reassigned to elementary/middle school due to deficit

3. Two non-instructional aide positions vacant - will not be filled to due budget deficit
4. Freeze on current budget expenditures/approval process in place for essential materials and supplies and emergency needs

*Fiscal Plant/Environment*
1. Entire building painted
2. Wiring project near completion (all wiring done; awaiting final connection to system)
3. Media Center enhancement - assignment of new Information Resource Teacher
4. Changes in custodial staff impacts general maintenance
5. Intense nature of physical community impacts enrollment (devastation, limited adequate housing)

*Curriculum and Instruction*
1. Two successful FFLN were conducted to support parental awareness of MSA requirements, family literacy, and parent involvement and participation
2. Library Enhancement grant significantly increased the number of up to date print resources available to students
3. Increased percentage of groups at or near grade level in DI Reading and Math; especially among 5th grade students
4. Increased focus on literacy and technology through reassignment of an excellent teacher as the Information Resource Teacher; greater integration of Language Arts and Core Knowledge with the integration of technology

*Challenges/Perceived Obstacles*
1. Attendance – despite a comprehensive Attendance Monitoring and Incentive program, we continue to struggle with less than satisfactory attendance across all grade levels.
2. Increased numbers of children performing below grade level and with significant behavioral and emotional problems have transferred to DRBES
3. Older students in elementary setting due to compliance with Promotional Policy
4. Parent involvement continues to be a challenge (connecting with the parents of students in greatest need)
5. Maintaining a positive tone and high staff morale
6. Staffing changes which impact programmatic initiatives (PBIS/Discipline – Guidance Counselor reassignment)
7. The future of DRBES due to enrollment, community issues, and student performance
8. The future of provisional teachers (certification, PRAXIS, UTE/PSS completion, etc.)

*Goals*
1. Environment Enhancement Projects- bathroom beautification; grounds enhancement
2. Literacy Murals painted throughout building
3. Parent Readers' Club; six to eight week sessions to read and discuss a book/topic. Ordered Judge Hatchet's *Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say*
4. Year-end Field Trip to an amusement park (pending adequate funding and sponsorships)
5. Partnership with Enoch Pratt
6. Develop a Grant Writing Sub-committee

*Upcoming Meetings*

**SIT Meetings**
4th Wednesday of each Month
Next Meeting: February 25, 2004
3:00 p.m.

**SIP Committee Meetings**
(See attached Committee Reports)

Charlotte M. Williams
February 9, 2004