

Canongate Elementary Principal's Advisory Council

November 28, 2016

The Canongate Elementary School PAC met for their second regular session of the 2016-2017 school year on Monday, November 28 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held in the media center.

- Welcome- Ms. Robinson welcomed the PAC members to the second meeting of the school year. Eleven out of the 12 members were present with Yesenia Ramirez being the absent member. Ms. Goolsby, school counselor, was also in attendance as a special guest. An agenda was provided to each attendee.
- Bullying Presentation given by Ms. Goolsby- Ms. Robinson introduced Ms. Goolsby and turned the meeting over to her for a presentation on bullying. Ms. Goolsby began by thanking the PAC for having her. She reviewed the definition of bullying and the different types of bullying that exist-verbal, mental, and physical. She reminded the students that they should be role models and if they or someone they know is being bullied; they should tell an adult so they can get help with that situation. She also provided suggestions for proper ways to handle bullying incidents such as leaving the area/location it is happening, but always being sure to seek the help from an adult or advocate. Ms. Goolsby informed the PAC that bullying is illegal and that there are serious repercussions in the state of Georgia if someone is found guilty of bullying. Finally, Ms. Goolsby opened the floor for questions/comments from the PAC members. One student asked her "why do people bully?" and she explained some reasons/situations that could answer that difficult question. Ms. Robinson thanked her for sharing the information with the PAC.
- Discussion of What An Effective/Ineffective Teacher Looks Like- Ms. Robinson then redirected the thinking by asking the students to think about what qualities are found in effective and ineffective teachers. The PAC members described these 2 different types of teachers with the following comments:

Effective Teacher & what he/she did that you appreciated	Ineffective Teacher & why they were ineffective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart • Show you how to do something step by step • Are fun; make learning fun; funny • Do lots of projects • Even during recess, they will help you out • Does group activities • Nice • "I really like it when they do food projects" • "Yes, me too, because we grasp the material better with the food." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They don't help you • They talk to you in a mean way even when you don't think you have done anything wrong • They get mad at the whole class when they are really just mad at one person • Doesn't listen • Rude; never nice • Don't talk to the kids; checking their cell phones all day • Might try to hurt a kid • Takes things way too seriously; no sense of humor

- Discussion of Challenging Work vs. Busy Work- Ms. Robinson facilitated a discussion on the difference between challenging work and busy work. The PAC said that challenging work is hard and usually about stuff you haven't really learned yet and it's a teacher's way of trying to push you. They also felt like busy work is usually easier and covers things they have already learned; more like a review. Mr. Dean then went on to point out that both types of work are healthy and we really want them to have a balance of challenging work but to also review and maintain the knowledge they have already

acquired. It was also discussed that what one student may think is challenging work; another student may view as busy work.

- Is Canongate a fun place to be? If not, how can we make it fun? When Ms. Robinson posed this question, there was a unanimous “YES” from the PAC. One child even said, “It’s more fun here than the other school’s I’ve been to.” They went on to name many things that make Canongate a fun place to be. Some of the comments included: Fall Festival; Fun Run; Pie in the Face Contest for Can-A-Thon; Clubs (Art, Science Olympiad); Chorus; REACH; school shirts; fun books to read; Book Fairs; fun game sin PE-not just stretching; music class is fun; fun teachers and principals.

Ms. Robinson explained that we want the students to be honest about our school and that their opinions are valued. She reminded them that the 3rd-5th graders take a climate survey every year to report how they feel about our school. The last rating Canongate received was 4 out of 5 possible stars. Ms. Robinson pointed out that 4 stars is a very good rating, but we always want to strive for the best and to continually improve.

- Next meeting date for the PAC- The next PAC meeting is TBD, but will probably take place in February, 2017.
- Meeting Adjourned