

Westmoor Site Council

The Westmoor Elementary School Site Council held its first meeting on Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in the school library. Those in attendance were Kris Mickey, Sheryl Holscher, Steve Huerta, Roger Holsinger, Cindy Plummer, Diane Hunzeker and Charlotte Browning. Members absent included Janel Hibberd, Celestina Bolger, Steve Viessman and John Keller.

The council viewed and discussed the mission statement intended for the group to achieve and went over the code of cooperation.

The group reviewed some of the achievements from last year including the scheduling of a second bus to transport students to BMS, the stop sign that was installed on the northeast side of the school, the Reading Compacts resigned to get parents more involved in their child's reading, and the work done to make breakfast available for students attending Westmoor.

A discussion began about the city's idea to remove crossing guards from the city's budget. Charlotte said she would find out additional information on the topic and if needed, the group said they would be in favor of having a letter drafted and sent to the council requesting the continued support of crossing guards.

The group also discussed the success of the breakfast program and Charlotte also updated the group on some other changes at the school including the construction of a chain-linked fence around the south playground area. The fence project was done in order to comply with federal laws regarding the safety of pre-school students. A new piece of playground equipment was added over the summer and at the conclusion of the meeting, the group received a tour of the new pre-school classroom.

The group also discussed the recent results of the state writing tests. Charlotte reported that the fourth grade students were at 70 percent proficient. Roger Holsinger made a suggestion on a way that might assist students in their writing, reading and grammar skills. He suggested the school start its own monthly newspaper, after his daughter showed an interest in interviewing family members and then writing a story about the interview. The idea would be to first have a writing contest to name the publication and then students from Kindergarten through fifth grade could submit stories for publication. In addition, the 2-page paper would include information from site council meetings along with information from Principal Browning.

Additional information about the idea is expected at the next meeting.

Submitted by Roger Holsinger, Westmoor Site Council Secretary