

Woodstation Elementary School
Title I Annual Parent Meeting
Minutes

Date: September 17, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Woodstation Elementary School

Invited: All WES Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff

Meeting Facilitators:

Ernie Ellis, Principal

Kandace Carter, Academic Coach

Jayne Black, Family Engagement Coordinator

Welcome

Parents were welcomed by Jayne Black, Kandy Carter, and Kristy Jablonski (District Title I Coordinator). All attendees signed in and were given a packet that included an agenda to follow along with the presentation, parent right to know letter, annual meeting information and parent text message sign up information. All attendees were also encouraged to stop by the Title I Table to pick up copies of the WES Parent and Family Engagement Policy, District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, Student Testing in Georgia brochure, Georgia Standards of excellence information, Components of a Schoolwide Plan handout, How to Communicate With Your Child's Teacher brochure, Family-School Compacts for Achievement and Input cards. Jayne Black and Kandy Carter were available to answer any questions and to encourage input about the information available.

Presentation of Information and Slide Show

Mr. Ellis introduced himself and explained to attendees that they could follow along with the google slides presentation by looking at the agenda included in their paperwork packet. He then discussed the following items:

What is a Title I school and what are the requirements?

Mr. Ellis explained that Woodstation receives extra funding to help improve the academic environment for all students. He said Title I programs often provide additional staff, professional development for staff, and family engagement opportunities.

What does our school do with Title I money?

Mr. Ellis showed the parents a graph that indicated how Woodstation is spending its Title I funds this year. The majority of the money is being spent on salaries for Kandy Carter, Academic Coach, and Jayne Black, Family Engagement Coordinator. Both positions are full time and being funded by Title I funds. Mr. Ellis also said a small part of the budget goes toward paying for family engagement workshops and activities and the instructional supplies for these meetings.

What are our school goals?

Mr. Ellis explained that our goals are driven by Georgia Milestones results. The goals for 2019-2020 were shown on a slide.

1. **By May 2020 the percentage of students in 4th grade performing at a level 3 or 4 in English Language Arts will increase from 55% (3rd grade score) to 58% (4th grade score) on the Georgia Milestones Assessment.**
2. **By May 2020 the percentage of students in 5th grade performing at a level 3 or 4 in ELA will increase from 47% (4th grade score) to 50% (5th grade score) on the Georgia Milestones Assessment.**
3. **By May 2020 the percentage of students in 4th grade performing at a level 3 or 4 in Math will increase from 62% (3rd grade score) to 64% (4th grade score) on the Georgia Milestones test.**
4. **By May 2020 the percentage of students in 5th grade performing at a level 3 or 4 in Math will increase from 49% (4th grade score) to 51% (on 5th grade score) on the Georgia Milestones Assessment.**

What programs/supports are in place for your child?

Mr. Ellis said teachers work hard in the classroom to provide each child with what they need to be successful. He said some extra programs that Woodstation has to help increase learning are:

- After school tutoring
- Book clubs in the Media Center before school
- Intervention and enrichment time built into the daily schedule
- Extra learning programs for students including Lexia, Reading Plus, iReady, and DreamBox

State's Grade Report

Mr. Ellis said there is a grade report that parents can access that gives information about the school. The link to access this report is: <https://schoolgrades.georgia.gov/>

Mr. Ellis also gave a performance snapshot for Woodstation that covers some of the information in the State's Grade Report:

- Woodstation's overall performance is higher than 60% of schools in the state and is similar to its district.
- Student academic growth is higher than 57% of schools in the state and higher than its district.
- 55% of 3rd grade students scored a level 3 or 4 on ELA for Georgia Milestones.
- 62% of 3rd grade students scored a level 3 or 4 on math for Georgia Milestones.
- 60% of 5th grade students scored a 920 Lexile, ready for 6th grade!

What curriculum does WES use?

Mr. Ellis said all Catoosa County Schools use the state adopted standards called the Georgia Standards of Excellence as their adopted curriculum. He told parents there was a brochure available at the Title I table with more information about the Georgia Standards of Excellence and he encouraged parents to take one and read over it.

Team Learning Process – The Four Questions

Mr. Ellis told parents that all teachers on each grade level are working together to ensure high levels of learning for every student. These are the four questions they are addressing when working with their students:

1. What do we want all students to learn?
 - Georgia Standards of Excellence with focus on essential standards
2. How will we know if they have learned it
 - Data from assessments
3. How will we respond if they don't learn it?
 - Reteach, small groups, individualize
4. How will we extend learning for those who know it?
 - Deepen learning, produce a product based on standard or learning target.

What tests will your child take this year and how do they measure progress?

Mr. Ellis told parents that students in grades 3-5 will take the Georgia Milestones assessments in the spring. He said there was information about student testing available at the Title I table. Woodstation will give parents more information and tips on how to prepare their child for testing at the Group FAST meeting on March 19. Mr. Ellis said the test measures student growth and results are reported in one of the following levels:

- Level 1 Beginning Learner
- Level 2 Developing Learner
- Level 3 Proficient Learner
- Level 4 Distinguished Learner

Mr. Ellis told parents there is a Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) where you can access your child's performance on previous tests. To use this, log into parent portal and click on the SLDS link on the bottom left hand side of the page. Mr. Ellis told parents if you do not have a parent portal account, the paperwork was available at the Title I table and in the school office.

Does my child's teacher meet professional qualifications?

Mr. Ellis said all teachers are qualified and meet Title I regulations. He asked parents to look in their packet for the Parents' Right to Know letter and to read over it. Mr. Ellis said the school is always happy to provide information to parents regarding teacher qualifications.

Ways WES partners with parents:

Mr. Ellis said the goal of the Title I Family Engagement Program is to work with parents as partners in order to achieve higher student success. Some of the ways Woodstation is working with families this year are through Family and School Team (FAST) meetings, Fifth grade and PreK/Kindergarten transition events, Family-School Compacts, PAC meetings, surveys, volunteer opportunities, and PTO. Mr. Ellis said these are some of the ways Woodstation encourages a partnership between home and school. He encouraged parents to speak with Jayne Black, Family Engagement Coordinator, to learn more about how they can be involved in their child's education.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Mr. Ellis told parents that Woodstation is a PBIS school which means clear expectations for behavior are taught in order to establish a climate where appropriate behavior is the norm. Mr. Ellis said students are recognized for good behavior by receiving General Bucks. Students can cash these in for classroom prizes and fun school events.

How do parents lodge complaints?

Mr. Ellis told parents he always has an open door and to speak with him about any questions or concerns. He said he is usually outside every morning greeting students in the car line, or parents may call the school office at (706) 935-6700 to schedule an appointment. He told parents if they have a Title I concern, they should bring it to Gina Haynes, Catoosa County Title I Director. Her phone number was on the presentation slide (706) 965-2297 and her email was also included: ghaynes@catoosa.k12.ga.us

Will the staff be responsive to questions?

Mr. Ellis said he always welcomes feedback from parents. He said Woodstation wants to meet the needs of its families and parents are welcome to request information or meetings at any time. He also encouraged parents to speak with Ms. Black, attend meetings, and fill out their evaluation forms if they have input or suggestions. He told parents the Family Resource Center is a good place to find helpful brochures and information about curriculum, testing and Title I. The Family Resource Center is in Room 120 and is always open during school hours. Mr. Ellis said this Annual Meeting presentation will also be posted on the school website.

Closing

After the slide show and presentation of information, Mr. Ellis thanked everyone for coming. He asked them to fill out the pink input form included in their packet, and to pick up Title I documents they were interested in before leaving. Jayne Black collected feedback forms as parents exited the meeting. See Annual Meeting Evaluation Results.