

Parent Advisory Council Minutes
Meeting: August 6, 2009

Members present: Heather, Rebecca, Connie, Julie C., Sue and Michelle

Elections were held. Results are as follows: **Chair:** Heather, **Co-Chair:** Connie and **Secretary:** Rebecca

Michelle discussed the STARS Governance By-Laws and the STARS Parent Advisory Council By-Laws.

Protocol for accepting new members into the PAC was discussed and determined (M/S/P):

- 1) Applicant will complete the PAC application
- 2) PAC will review each application
- 3) PAC votes on the acceptance of each candidate

Michelle stressed the importance of recruiting new PAC members with a focus on obtaining members from all four counties and from a variety of cultural communities.

Michelle will send each PAC member two postage paid envelopes and PAC applications to use in our recruitment efforts. Applicants may also submit their application via fax or e-mail.

Michelle reviewed the STARS infrastructure/decision making process.

The Family Connections To Do list was reviewed. Discussions centered around the focus of Family Connections, the potential sites , and the children's programming component. Sue will find out about distributing flyers in the Elk River district due to their ban on outside flyers. Sue also talked extensively about a YMCA group with a group of parents that have children with mental health issues and partnering with them. We will follow up on this with Sue. We discussed the family connections nights to do first and the discussion leaned towards ST. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Monticello, Buffalo , Foley and partnering with Elk River's YMCA group.

We discussed at length the children's programming as related to the birth to 6th grade family connections night. The group discussed offering internships to St. Cloud students in their junior or senior years. The PAC discussed the need for students that understand children's behavior as related to emotional , mental and behavioral issues. The interns would need to have the skills to teach those children how to fit into the group.

Rebecca and Heather have connections at ST. Cloud state and will work on those connections to find out about offering internships.

Heather suggested that we get our PAC materials online ahead of time and that Michelle only print for those people that requested it. Heather also suggested a common way to communicate such as facebook etc.

Michelle emphasized that Family connections groups need to be sustainable by families which means very low cost or no cost to run. STARS will assist these groups during the next two years to accomplish this.

Julie Carpenter gave the advice to the group that the way to get schools involved in partnering with us with family connections is to emphasize the fact that Family Connections will get families more involved with the school through the support of the group and that when families are supportive of their children's schooling the children are more successful in school. This translates to better outcomes for both the individual child and the school.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 13th, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Mental Health Center in Monticello