

**Support Staff Council Meeting
Minutes
April 28, 2011**

The Support Staff Council met on April 18, 2011 at 9:00 AM in the Central Office conference room. Council members present were: Richard Harden, Kathy Willingham, Robin Sontag, Michelle Hollingsworth, Margaret Peel, Danny Blanton, Ron Bain, Don Richardson, Debra Lowery and Teresa Moberly. Members absent: Jim Sadler, Kenny Smith, Madonna Keathly, Brenda Wheeler and Bobby Ball.

Vending Machines

Question: Can we have vending machines in non-student areas—such as the bus garage and other buildings where students typically do not enter?

Answer: When the Wellness Policy was passed, this question came up, and Karl Smith (board chairman at that time) along with the rest of the board expressed that we (school employees) should be following the same guidelines in regards to the vending machines that we have set for the students. The Board felt that this was an important part of the "Employee" Wellness Plan (that we also are required to have in place), and that as employees, we should be setting a good example for everyone.

If the employees at these locations want to bring their own snacks and soft drinks from home, they are more than welcome to do so. But, if we make certain items available in vending machines at certain locations, then a "percolator" of questions and requests begins to brew. Then, it blossoms into a whole set of problems at all of the school sites.

Roof Maintenance

It was approved at the April board meeting to proceed with replacing the roof at East Jessamine High School and to repair the roof at Nicholasville Elementary. All schools and buildings seem to have "weathered" the recent heavy rain well.

Smoke Free Campus

As we all know, Jessamine County Schools adopted a Smoke Free Campus policy in January 2011. The Support Staff Council discussed the issue of the continued smoking in the bathrooms on the High School level and what measures can be taken to enforce our Smoke Free policy. One member commented that their child will be attending high school next year and is very concerned that some students refrain from going to the restrooms during school hours for fear of smelling like smoke and running the risk of being accused of smoking. Mr. Harden suggested they speak to the principal about these concerns.

Discipline/Consequence

The Support Staff Council discussed the issue of discipline/consequences once a student has been caught breaking the student code of conduct rules. The Transportation Department seems to be having the most problems with students misbehaving on the school bus. Support staff members commented that when a student is written up for misconduct on the bus they rarely are notified of any action taken by the principal. The students continue to misbehave and end up with numerous write ups and nothing seems to be done to enforce rules. Mr. Harden suggested that if the bus driver is not notified of discipline action then he/she should follow up with Mr. Bellman. Mr. Bellman should then talk directly with the principal.

Budget Cuts

Support Staff Council members commented that in light of all the budget cuts taking place on the school level, they would like to know where cuts have been made at Central Office. Central Office does share in these budget cuts. The following positions have been cut at CO in each of the past two years:

2009-2010

1 full-time Administrative Assistant in Finance
1 full-time School Administrator Manager
1 part-time Instructional Coordinator
District Athletic Director position cut from full-time to half-time
Paul Hamann picked up Pete Royse's responsibilities upon Pete's death (.5 FTE)
Reduced transportation staff by 1 day each for a savings of \$10,000.00

2010-2011

1 full-time Administrative Assistant in benefits
1 full-time Administrative Assistant in Communications
2 full-time custodians
1 half-time purchasing position (to be restored in 2011-2012 as a different half-time position)

The cumulative reduction in General Fund staffing at CO over the past two years is -9.7%. We are currently reviewing staffing in each department to determine if other cuts are possible for 2011-2012. The current recommendation under consideration will further reduce CO staffing by at least another 1%. In addition, CO non-personnel General Fund budgets were cut by 5% in 2010-2011 and will be cut an additional 5% in 2011-2012.

All the cuts under consideration represent enough savings for the district that we plan to recommend to the Board a raise for all staff next year. In addition, we plan to recommend to the Board an increase in the salary schedules themselves. Mr. Harden noted that experience level on the salary schedule should be considered part of your raise.

Safety Issue

The entrance at East Jessamine High School is confusing to all drivers. There are numerous close calls every morning. It would be very helpful if we could put a "No left turn" sign placed for those drivers approaching the access road. Mr. Bellman has indicated that this is a school issue and not an issue for the Transportation Department. Mr. Harden will speak to Shirley Smith, Director of Maintenance and ask that he look into this matter.

Adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, May 26, 2011.**