

Schools of Choice Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 2nd at 10:00 am (Conference Room 20)

Minutes recorded by Jen Peddycoart, Secretary III, Mellon Administrative Building

Members Present: Amy Armstrong, Stephanie Stuart, Jen Peddycoart, Stephanie Eckels, Tracy Quigg Thomas, Joyce Roundtree, Becky Laws, Dr. Susan Zola, Jaime Roundtree, Kathy Richards, Maria Alanis, Kathy Richards.

Members Not In Attendance: Tiffany Armas, Laura Bleill, Dave Hohman, Trevor Nadrozny, Charles Schultz, Dr. Judy Wiegand

Agenda Items Discussed

- I. Welcome and Introductions. Review of topics by Dr. Susan Zola
 - II. Marketing: Stephanie reviewed all the marketing efforts that were implemented in the 14-15 school year.
 - a. Choice staff was able to distribute important dates and information starting in October 2014 leading up to the January-March registration.
 - b. Schools of Choice yard signs were displayed at each of our campuses and around the community.
 - c. Family information nights were held January 27th and February 5th, leading up to the Showcase of Schools.
 - d. Choice Chats: Held twice weekly in the month of March on Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Although they were not as well attended this year, we did have a few families that came and were able to get questions answered.
 - e. Evening Open Houses: All 12 elementary schools held evening open houses on February 24, including school tours.
 - f. Additional School Tours: Held during the month of February every Tuesday morning and Wednesday afternoon. Stephanie went to the PAC meeting this year to discuss the SOC process for English learners.
 - e. Choice Liaison: Assisted approximately 35-40 families in scheduling and attending school tours outside of the designated times.
- Online Proximity Lookup: added this year as a feature on the website. It was used during the Choice Chats to help families find their proximity school.
- f. Update of Welcome to Champaign Schools Book. This year it was updated to include middle and high school information. Future updates will need to include gifted information for the next school year.

- a. During the transfer period there were about 150 K-5 families wanting to transfer. During mid-June schools will do add/drop and match families up and assign transfer families, 1-5th grade.
- b. ESL department will see an influx in September of families that will register after the beginning of school. Last year, over 100 K-12 families will register after the start of school. We can expect the same pattern this year. The ESL department has created a flyer in Spanish and posted them in popular community locations. It's possible there could be complications getting vaccinations at the beginning of the school year since these families are registering late. Promise healthcare is interested in attending school registrations to help families with no doctors get their immunizations.

Other Items Discussed: Unit 4 has the largest Congolese student population south of I-80. There is part time French/English program at Stratton which is where most of the families are. If the families contact Maria Alanis, they have an interpreter available but most families are coming in to register alone. The Congolese family population at Stratton has almost doubled. Pull out and push in in French-just like ESL. Maria has suggested a possible Google Translate program which could help with the walk-in families at the Family Information Center.

We will meet again in November 2015 before the School of Choice process gets started and re-visit where we are.