

Cairo American College Middle School
CAT Team Agenda - March 12, 2008 - 3:30 p.m.
Middle School Counseling Center

- A. Review Minutes of February 20 - Matters Arising
- B. Educational Continuity - Update
- C. Parent Forum FCD / Sun Safety / Future Topics
- D. Student Led Conferences - Parent Research
- E. Modern Languages Program - Essential Question
- F. POLAR Updates - Admissions Information
- G. CAC School Committees: CAT Representatives
Health and Safety - Kris Besch
Strategic Planning Review - Susan Ross
- H. A.O.B.

Next Scheduled Meeting - April 23, 2008 at 3:30

Minutes of the Middle School CAT Team Meeting held on February 20, 2008

The following topics were the focus of the 90 minute meeting:

1) Educational Continuity: *What impact will the CAC Master Plan have on student learning?*

- John Hollenbach shared information to the CAT team members on the current planning involved with the first phase of the CAC Master plan. He distributed documents that are found on the CAC web site and answered questions from the CAT team members. It was agreed to provide additional updates.

2) Board Elections: Melanie Nelson discussed the upcoming CAC Board elections, Board members roles and responsibilities, and requested CAT team members to help identify and encourage potential candidates to stand for these openings.

3) FCD: Two representatives from the organization - Freedom from Chemical Dependency - spoke to the CAT team members about their program and their roles while working with students at CAC. CAT team members were asked to encourage parents to attend a Parent Forum scheduled during their visit.

4) Modern Languages: *What are the realities, challenges and opportunities of the Modern Languages Program at the CAC Middle School? If we could envision the ideal Modern Language Program in the Middle School, what would it look like?*

Mr. Popinchalk reviewed the recorded comments from the initial discussion in January on this topic and the following items were noted in this ongoing discussion:

- Currently, students do not always have access to the language of their choice.
- CAC could improve on how it communicates to students and parents the articulation and coordination of the modern languages from one school division to another.
- The CAC Middle School is perceived to have a strong academic program but this is not reflected in the approach to the study of modern languages.
- The CAT Team believes that all Middle School students should be required to study a modern language. The school administration believes that research should be conducted to see if all parents support this notion since it will reduce student choice.
- 53% of the students are currently taking Modern Languages in the Middle School, 9% are involved with the ESL program and another 4% are currently scheduled for the learning support program.
- Any major expansion of the Modern Languages program will have a budgetary impact unless the other elective programs are reduced in terms of staffing and program options.

5) AOB:

- ❖ A CAT members requested that additional discussions be held regarding the first year of the “no cut” sports program in the Middle School.
- ❖ It was announced that the PTO Spring fair would be cancelled due to a lack of parent interest and support.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00.