

Neshaminy School District Elementary Academic Enrichment Program Changes Meeting

June 24, 2015

6:00 p.m. District Administrative Offices, Board Room at Maple Point

In attendance were 23 parents of academic enrichment (AE) elementary students (mostly Heckman ES), six (6) elementary school principals and three (3) district level administrators.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an open forum to discuss issues of concern regarding the impending structural change and staffing assignment for service delivery of enrichment services at the elementary division beginning in the 2015-16 school year.

A comparison chart was handed out and reviewed that compares the current structure to the planned structure for the new school year. This chart is included here for easy reference.

Elementary Academic Enrichment Structure 2014 - 2015	Elementary Academic Enrichment Structure 2015 - 2016
Each teacher services students in multiple buildings	One teacher dedicated to each building
2 hours/week of services	Daily services
Students miss regular instruction due to pull out model for service delivery	Dedicated time period of instruction provided in a single setting (Power Hour)

The two changes planned include, the assignment of full time librarians to each building as AE support teachers and the introduction of Power Hour which will increase enrichment services from two hours once a week to 40-60 minutes daily.

A distinction was made between the two aforementioned planned changes slated for 2015-16 and the work that remains to be done as noted in the AE Program Quality Review Report. An invitation for parents to join the committee at the end of August was extended. Several parents expressed their willingness to serve on the committee.

Parents expressed their displeasure with the direction the district is headed with elementary AE services and implored the district to either delay the changes until after the work is done as recommended in the AE PQR or to give due consideration to the following:

- Provide an academic enrichment “guru” to support the librarians in the transition
- Hire an expert consultant to provide teacher training
- Identify and implement the great ideas(best practices) for Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics enrichment activities
- Ensure equity across the district with regard to resource allocation
- Hire/assign an academic coach for math
- Post updates on the status of our efforts on the district website
- Explore the feasibility of reinstituting a PAGE Chapter at Neshaminy
- Improve communication—updates, emails, monthly meetings
- Heightened sensitivity to the social, emotional needs of the gifted
- Dedicated web page for AE