

TO: Westbrook Walnut Grove School Committee on Reorganization

FR: Bill Richards

RE: AGENDA for Week ONE: BACKGROUND

DA: January 31st, 2006

01. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

Connie Knott / Bill Richards / Shelly Merrick / Tina Richards / Greg Madson / Marv Kleven / Katie Steen / Loy Wselber / Jane Hass



02. COMMITTEE TASK is locating and distilling background information into short summaries for the other committees to use in their decision making process. Review of the literature and district data on educational practices, tests, demographic shifts, research on school organizational patterns, ELL methods for assimilation and understanding, current info on reading, writing, and math, Brain Based Learning strategies and character development.

03. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA by committee includes appointing a recorder of the meetings minutes and forming and agreeing on the information to be gathered and the format it is to be presented in for others to use. REVIEW the Total Process.

04. MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS: WB: 1/31/06 PM
WG: 2/2/06 AM & PM
WB: 2/3/06 AM

05. EXPECTED OUTCOMES: Short Summary of relevant educational research related to restructuring school and related issues for use by the next committees as a partial basis for their decision making. Bibliography.

06. EVALUATION: Does the information gathered, provide some hard data and some anecdotal info about each of the questions posed.

07. SIGNIFICANT QUESTIONS:

1. Are certain grade organizations more supportive of student academic and social success than other age groupings? **Katie / Shelly / Tina**
2. Does current research on brain compatible learning indicate any changes in the method or content of instruction or the organization of the learning environment to improve student success? **Connie & Katie**
3. What does research tell us about educational adjustments needed to maintain and increase student learning under the influence of a shift from a relatively homogeneous to a culturally diverse student population? **Tina**
4. Which ELL (English Language Learner) instructional methods produce the best results at which age levels and are any of them also beneficial to all students? **Tina**
5. How does local test data define our student population in terms of reading, writing and math skills? **Bill**
6. What are significant strategies or organizational structures that are successful with at-risk learners? **Loy**
7. What are some highly rated teacher renewal strategies for staff that have significant challenges in the classroom and in the teaching community? **Loy & Jane**
8. What is happening nationally in response to the No Child Left Behind dialogue, House Legislation and issues of safety and educational access? **Marv**
9. What are good strategies for improving student self-esteem and building character and leadership skills? **Shelly & Loy**
10. How can a school encourage parents to participate in their child's education in a meaningful way beyond bake sales and conferences? **Jane**

