

**Grading and Reporting Committee
October 2008**

Chair: Beth Kennington

bkenn@starpower.net

The Grading and Reporting Committee met on October 6 and welcomed Ebony Langford, Director - Elementary School Instruction and Achievement and Theresa Cepaitis, Director - Curriculum Development and Program Implementation, who provided a detailed presentation on the revised first, second and third grade standards-based report cards ("SBRCs"). The presentation was followed by a Q&A session, during which Committee members provided feedback including: marking period grade history, measurement topic grade computations, teacher comments included with the report card, gathering of feedback from the SBRC field test elementaries and more. We learned that it is possible that only elementaries field-testing SBRCs would be the ones to field test the fourth and fifth grade SBRCs in 2009-2010. That decision may be made in January 2009 as to whether to expand (and if there are budgetary resources sufficient to expand) the SBRC field-test to more elementaries (130 in MCPS). On the question of whether all ES SBRCs will be implemented at once or whether implementation will occur on a grade level by grade level basis, it is likely that a full-school (grades 1 to 5) rollout will take place when the SBRCs are implemented county-wide. Providing an SBRC reading chart for 3rd through 5th grades, similar to the one provided on the 1st and 2nd grade SBRC, would prove costly in terms of technology hardware, software development, teacher training and implementation. The recommendation is that 3rd grade SBRC grade values be reported on a 4/3/2/1 scale as opposed to the current A/B/C/D/E scale. A recommendation has not issued forth on the grade scale to be used in 4th and 5th grades, but it appears logical that the 4/3/2/1 scale would be recommended. Grades at or above the .5 mark are rounded up to the next number. Grade values at or beyond the hundredths are truncated, therefore a 2.497 would be reported as a 2.

Although Pinnacle is the online gradebook currently used in standards-based grading, which is compatible with Edline, there are currently no thoughts toward displaying ES standards-based grades via Edline. MCPS is considering whether to use Edline at the ES level as a school-to-home communication tool.

We continue to advocate for MCPS to issue a communication memo to principals and staff in MCPS secondary schools, communicating to parents and students, the correct use and application of special grades Z, X and 0 (zero).

Next Meeting: December 1, 2008 - 7:00 pm CESC Conference Room 127.

If you are a parent at an elementary currently field-testing the standards-based report cards, we would like to touch base with you to discuss the potential for collecting anonymous parent feedback. Please contact me to discuss this opportunity for parents' feedback to be heard.