

## **Parent Involvement Committee**

### **October 2007**

The Parent Involvement Committee held their first meeting on October 10th 2007 in Room 127 of The BOE Building. We discussed various issues that PTAs face in getting parents involved in the school. One of the issues discussed is the iciness parents receive in the main office of the schools. We all agreed that if you do not think that you are welcome in the office you wouldn't think that you are welcome in the classroom.

We discussed the possibility of getting some guidelines of the beliefs and rules that govern various cultures and religious beliefs that are represented in our community. Before we can create an atmosphere of Inclusion we need to know what hinders a person from feeling that they are included in our community. One parent shared that at Wheaton Woods Elementary School, when they wanted to increase parent involvement, a meeting was first held with the men at one Apartment Complex to introduce to them what was being done, and to get their permission for the women to participate and become involved in the school. The people of this community are from a culture where men are the head of the household, and have to give permission to the women to engage in activities.

Utilizing Parent Outreach Coordinators also came up in our discussion. Offering training for volunteers and creating an atmosphere where parents, staff and administration all work together and respect each other will work for everyone. Having meetings for parents in their native languages without the need of interpreters could be a step in breaking down barriers and creating an atmosphere of "Inclusion". Three 4 Me was suggested to the parents as a program to look into to boost parent involvement.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 10th 2008.

Elisia George, Chair, Parent Involvement Committee