

Walton County School District  
**Youth Middle School / Title I Annual Parent Meeting**  
September 15, 2016 6:00 - 7:00pm  
Meeting held in the Media Center

## MINUTES

Parent Sign-In & Title I handouts and PowerPoint presentation distributed.

Mr. Todd, YMS Principal welcomed parents and introduced guests: Nyisha Collins, YMS Teacher

Mr. Todd provided a brief overview of the topics to be addressed during the meeting. He encouraged parents to provide comments and ask questions throughout the presentation.

Following the meeting agenda, Mr. Todd presented information on the Title I program. A school receives Title I designation based on the percentage of students in the school that qualify for the federal free/reduced meal program. Youth Middle School is a federally funded Title I school with 46.85% of the students qualifying for the free or reduced lunch program. There are two designations of Title I schools: School-wide and Targeted Assistance. Title I Targeted Assistance (TA) schools have a free/reduced percentage between 36-39%. The funds a TA school receives are used to address the needs of “targeted” or academically at-risk students only. Youth Middle School is a school-wide Title I school addressing the needs of all students. Mr. Todd reviewed the rights of parents to be involved in their child’s school and encouraged parents to volunteer at school, to communicate with the students’ teacher, and to frequently monitor their academic progress by visiting teacher websites and the Parent Portal to review teacher on-line grade books and school attendance.

School goals this year include increasing student performance on the Georgia Milestone Assessment and improving the reading and math levels of all students as defined in the framework of the Georgia Standards of Excellences (GSE) & Georgia Performance Standards. Youth Middle School has a School-Wide Improvement Plan which is based providing academic assistance to at-risk students. However, all students at YMS benefit from the strategic goals that the plan addresses. Another goal is to increase the percentage of students with disabilities meeting or exceeding standards in the areas of English language areas, math, science, and social studies. All YMS parents may give input and feedback on the school-wide plan.

Mr. Todd went through the survey results of the Annual Parent Survey given in February of 2016. He went over both areas strengths and weakness.

By law, all Title I school districts and schools must have a Family Engagement. The purpose of Title I Family Engagement Plan is to create and foster educational partnerships that encourage parent engagement in student learning. Both the district and school plans outline how they will provide opportunities to enhance and strengthen parent involvement. Title I Family Engagement Plan are reviewed and revised annually. All parents are invited and encouraged to participate in the revision process and will be notified via email, the school message center, flyers, the local newspaper, and the school marquee. The Walton County School District has a Title I Parent Plan that is available on the board of education and YMS websites. Copies of both plans are also available in the YMS Parent Information Center in the front office and on the Title I Message Board.

Another requirement of Title I is that each Title I school develop a School-Parent Compact. A school compact is a partnership document - or action plan - that details the shared responsibility of all stakeholders for high student achievement. The YMS School-Parent Compact describes how our parents, students and teachers will work together to achieve the goal of student academic development. School-Parent Compacts

are reviewed and revised annually with input and feedback opportunities provided to parents, teachers and students. The YMS compacts were sent home with students on the first day of school for parents and students to review, sign and return to the students' homeroom teacher.

All YMS teachers are highly qualified and are certified in the core academic subject area that they teach. Mr. Todd defined the standards as the learning skills or goals of what students should learn and know in mathematics, English language arts, social studies, and science by the end of their current grade in school. There are standards for grades K-12 providing a consistent framework to ultimately prepare students for success in college or the workplace called the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).

Georgia has a system designated to rate school performance called the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The reporting is calculated with appropriate indicators or achievement levels, for elementary, middle, and high schools, and will yield a detailed analysis of students' college and career readiness. Mr. Todd reviewed the CCRPI score at 79.6 for YMS. The index will measure the extent to which a school, school district, and the state are successfully making progress in a number of key areas, such as content mastery, student attendance, and the next level of preparation. The CCRPI supports the academic preparation students for success in college and careers; effective teaching and successful leadership in our schools; and school improvement goals. The index has been developed around the definition of college and career readiness and the level of achievement that is required for a student to enter post-secondary education or a career.

No Child Left Behind has been reauthorized and is now referred to by its' original name – Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The GA Department of Education applied for a waiver from specific sections of ESEA to allow the state greater flexibility in how schools, school districts and the state collaborate to improve struggling schools. Under ESEA schools are required to raise the bar for improved academic performance for all students. Based on performance a school may be identified as a Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert School to provide parents an understanding of resources a school needs to be successful in preparing students for college or career. YMS is not identified as a Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert School.

Title I funds at YMS support student learning through literacy programs such as Read 180, the Success Through Arithmetic and Reading (STAR) Program, Summer School, Eight Days of Summer Program, and Spring Intercession. One staff members' salary at YMS is funded with Title I monies. Title I goals include closing the achievement gap between high- and low-performing students, improving and strengthening accountability by using state assessment systems created to ensure that students are meeting the Georgia Performance Standards and providing professional learning to staff to elevate the quality of instruction for students. Mr. Todd mentioned that all the principals of the Title I schools in Walton County have agreed to pool all or part of their parental involvement allocation for a district-level parental involvement activity/project. He encouraged parents that they are always welcome to give input on how the school spends Title I funds.

The goal of STAR (Success through Arithmetic and Reading) tutorial program is to increase the awareness in students to see the value of education and to remediate students in math and reading. The STAR program began seven years ago as an after-school program. STAR is now held on Saturday mornings and is open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Transportation has been provided for previous year and this current school year for student participants with Title I funds. Student participants are provided an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the structure of the program and to also voice specific academic areas that they would like assistance with such as homework and missed school work. At the beginning of the school year, student assessment begins through on-going team meetings to review and analyze student performance data. In

recognizing that the success of the STAR program hinges on student attendance, the program collaborates with Communities in Schools to provide incentives for student attendance and participation. Through collaboration with the local faith community and CIS, student participants are provided a hearty breakfast when they arrive at school on STAR Saturdays. Student participants polled at the end of the STAR program indicate they leave the program more confident and stronger in each content area, and feel better about school. There will also be an opportunity for students to attend Eight Days of Summer Program which is technically Summer School, for additional instruction days and support in all content areas.

Mr. Todd discussed the future trends in education highlighting budget shortfalls and the effect this will have on our schools. Jobs in the workplace are becoming increasingly high-tech. College degrees a student may pursue will be more jobs specific to their career choice. This will also increase graduation requirements. We must teach students to reach higher levels of intelligence. Technology will continue to be important in the student's education.

Ms. Collins mentioned the YMS Parent Resource Center and that parent can use the computers in the media center, if they need to, and staff would be available to help them get into the parent portal to check grades, and missing assignments. She encouraged parents to communicate with the teachers, and to let us know if they need anything, throughout the school year. She encouraged parents to regularly check the YMS website home page and the Title I page for updated information about YMS and District events and for other Title I information.

Mr. Todd opened the floor for questions and discussions.  
Parents did not ask any questions

**Title I Annual Parent Meeting handouts included:**

**Title I Program – Description and Goals**

**Walton County School District Title I Family Engagement Plan**

**YMS Title I Family Engagement Plan**

**YMS School-Parent Compact**

**CCGPS Brochure**

**Parents' Guide to Student Success 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Flyers**

**WCSD Homeless Program**

**Dual Enrollment Flyer**

**District Calendar of Parent Meetings and Workshops Schedule**

**ESEA flyer**

**Frequently Used Terms/Definitions/Abbreviations**

**Parent Engagement Newsletter**