

**Nome PTSA Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2005**

**PRESENT:** Patti Anderson, John G. Grennon, Lori Head, Jennifer Heffele, Robin Johnson, Julie Kelso, Urtha Lenharr, Stan Lujan, Sylvia Matson, Karen Mehl Barb Nickels, Candy Peterson, Lynette Schmidt, Margaret Thomas, Jon Wehde

**CALL TO ORDER** President, Barb Nickels, convened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Minutes from the PTSA meeting of March 2, 2005 were approved by a vote of those present.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT** PTSA president, Barb Nickels, distributed and discussed her written report, which is hereby made a part of these minutes.

**GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS** Quality Schools Coordinator, Jennifer Heffele, presented information on the Nome Quality Schools Model as it relates to the State of Alaska Grade Level Expectations (GLE).

Most of the parent comments on the presentation centered on the statement that “GLEs will become the curriculum; targets will be available as a resource.” Margaret Thomas felt strongly that the GLE alone do not constitute a curriculum. Jon Wehde agreed, saying that the GLE are the goal, the means to be determined. This led to a discussion as to the method being used to develop the curriculum. Margaret expressed concern on the time and resources being used in this endeavor. She pointed out that the entire nation is grappling with this issue, and hoped we are not wasting time re-inventing the wheel. Julie Kelso mentioned that the Anchorage school district has aligned their two approved math programs with the State of Alaska Performance Standards (on which the GLE are based), so alignment to the GLE cannot be far behind.

**STANDARDIZED CURRICULUM** Further discussion of curriculum led to the issue of standardization. Some parents expressed concern at the lack of standardized instruction, for example, in math. Lori Head stated that she was accustomed to working with a textbook, and had wondered whether our current method of using targets and levels was leading to holes in her child's learning. Other parents expressed similar concerns, noting that the GLE do not represent everything that a rich curriculum would cover.

Julie asked if anyone was in charge of reviewing and approving the various programs used to ensure that they adequately cover the GLE. Jon Wehde spoke of the upcoming Measure of Academic Performance (MAP) tests that will be used to evaluate our students next year, and how the results from these tests will help us determine the effectiveness of our curriculum.

**REPORT CARD UPDATE** Urtha Lenharr presented a summary of parent and teacher comments and suggestions received on the new report card format. He noted that GLE checklists would be distributed with the report card.

Some parents thought that the GLE boxes on the report card might cause some confusion. For example, if you have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader doing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade work, the GLE box under the letter grade would read “2”, for second grade, and the letter grade would be based on second grade expectations, not fourth grade. In other words, that fourth grader could be failing fourth grade, but his fourth grade report card could still contain all “A”s, since he’s being graded on second grade expectations. Some wondered whether parents would understand this. Another parent pointed out that the state is not going to be giving that fourth grader the second grade GLE test. A teacher pointed out, however, that to give that hypothetical student an “F” on their report card would not be giving that student or parent any useful or helpful information, and that the student should be recognized and encouraged for their accomplishment at whatever level they are working.

One parent stated they thought it was misleading to list subjects on the report card for which there is no curriculum, such as Art. Urtha stated that those subjects without a defined curriculum would be marked N/A for “not assessed.”

Stan Lujan strongly suggested that the new report card format stay consistent for the entire school year. Suggestions for improvement could continue to be solicited throughout the next school year, but any additional changes will not be effective until the following year.

**SUGGESTION FOR FALL MEETING** Barb suggested that another public meeting take place in the fall to explain the GLE, before the first report cards come out.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.