



**School:** Edison

**Date:** 2/15/2018

**Time:** 4:40pm- 5:15pm

**Total in Attendance:** 53

### **CAP Mid-Year Parent Focus Group: Thomas Edison School**

We began with welcoming the parents and handing them a sheet with the questions we were going to ask so that they could have some time to think about their answers. Enough parents attended to fill two classrooms. The questions and responses were the following:

#### **1) Why did you choose to enroll your child in CAP? Answered included:**

- Several parents said their children were interested when they saw children staying after school and wanted to stay too. (2)
- Older siblings were part of the program and continued enrolling their younger children
- Homework Help. (3)
- Helps parents that are working.
- Convenient because the program takes place in the school and parents do not have to worry about picking up their children and dropping them off at another location.
- Offers a lot of activities that awakens interest in children.
- Children ask to be a part of the program because they enjoy being in school all day. (2)
- One parent said before the Carver Center took over the afterschool program that their child came home with homework still not done and didn't want to attend. Now most of the homework is done and kids want to be here.

#### **2) How is CAP helping to support your child and your family? Answers included:**

- Parents can be at work knowing confidently that their children are in a safe place.
- Children get homework help and are able to be social with other children
- Keeps children busy in healthy ways.

#### **3) Does your child appear happy at the end of a day in CAP? Answers Included:**

- Yes, they are Happy after a day in CAP. (4)
- Some kids come home very tired and still don't have homework done and this worries them. (3)
- Children tell parents that they need more time for homework.
- Children don't want to leave and ask to be dropped back if they are taken out early for a doctor's appointment.
- Enjoy program and activities.

**4) Do you find events like Exhibition helpful/enjoyable? Answers Included:**

- Children were very happy and excited.
- Yes, it shows what the kids do in CAP and kids are proud to show their parents.
- Helped with children's self-esteem and motivated them.
- Parents were grateful to see what their children work on.

**5) Do you find the parent workshops helpful? (Topics so far this year: Mindfulness/Depression/Anxiety, The Dangers of Opioids, Healthy Parenting, Interpersonal Effectiveness)**

- Some parents said yes, they are helpful and helps communication with children
- They questioned why it is done at JFK
- 7pm is too late for them
- Person who speaks at the work shop is not clear and not engaging.
- Themes are good but should be focused on something for their children.
- Each year the topics are the same and the parents are losing interest.
- Although they are informational the information is often not that helpful.

Ex. One parent said they were there for "The Dangers of Opioids" workshop and they were never explained how to respond to a situation where their children have ingested it. It presented a problem but no solution.

**6) What can we do to improve the CAP program for your child and your family? Answers Included:**

- More focus on more difficult subjects of Homework like math and English as parents were taught how to do math in a very different way than its done now and it confuses the children when they try to help.
- More Homework time.
- Children have complained that all their teachers do is stay on their phone and do not help them with homework or pay attention to them.
- Incorporate more activities like swimming.
- Parents want more feedback from teachers.
- Parents what a schedule of what their children do sent home.
- Parents feel anyone can pick up their children and authorized pick up is only enforced in the beginning of the year.
- Parents arrive at 5:15 pm promptly to pick up children and are not let into the building until 5:25 to 5:30 at times and during winter months have waited in the frigid cold with their

- other children and even when they are allowed inside their child's class is still not there for pick up. They make the effort to be on time and feel the program should as well.
- Program needs more organization. Flyers for events often leave out pieces of key information.

**7) Would you recommend the CAP program to another family? Why? Why not? Answers Included:**

- Everyone unanimously answered, yes.
- Excellent program
- Helps children keep busy with healthy topics and away from bad influences and over using electronics.
- Helps children come out of their shell and give them confidence
- Allows parents to work.
- Safe environment.
- Matt Casey, the director is amazing.

**Summary:** Overall the parents in the work shop had positive things to say about the program. It seems that the parents' biggest concerns are homework help, particularly with subjects like Math and English. They are happy with the program for the most part and did not hesitate to say they would recommend the program to other families.