


<p>Wilson Elementary School</p> <p>101 East 28th Street Hays, KS 67601 785-623-2550 Fax 785-623-2556</p>	<p>An NCA Accredited School</p> <p>TOGETHER</p> <p><i>We</i></p>  <p>Excel</p>
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SITE COUNCIL REPORT

Membership:

Tom Meagher, Principal
Teresa Gross, Art Teacher
Mandy Meagher, Kindergarten Teacher
Nancy Stramel, Counselor
Carla Hattan, Parent
Julie Zollinger, Parent and Home & School Representative
Mike Michaelis, Community Member

GOALS, OUTCOMES, TARGET AREAS

Wilson School continues to target the areas of math and reading. We have had several measurements in place to track progress with our students with these goals, and have also provided several different opportunities for staff to continue to share ideas with each other. We have expanded our use of data from the DIBELS assessment that we are using to measure skills related to pre-reading and early reading skills. That assessment is given to students in Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade. We are also doing a better job of cross-referencing data, including data from DIBELS, PALS, MAP, Reading Recovery Text Reading Levels, and scores from the Kansas Assessments.

Our General Ed Intervention "SCOOP" Team (Supporting Children Overcoming Obstacles in Performance) has been extremely valuable again this year in the support of instruction in our school. The SCOOP Team Mission Statement is "SCOOP will facilitate optimum student performance through empowering teachers with resources, support and accountability; enhancing targeted interventions for kids; and analyzing data to guide curriculum and instruction. The team has helped all staff incorporate our assessment data into what we do with our students. We are starting to do a much better job with "progress monitoring" on struggling students as we try various interventions with those students to help improve their skills. The SCOOP Team meets for one school day monthly to review individual student cases, put resources together for teachers to use with students, and to develop building-wide improvements related to instruction and student performance. The Team includes a representative from each grade level, one representative from the "Specials" area (Art, Music, PE...), and one representative from the Special Education Staff. Also involved with this team is the School Psychologist, the Counselor, and the Principal. This team has had a tremendous impact on our school's ability to work with struggling students and to offer support to the staff in the areas of instruction and assessment.

Related to accreditation, we will be aligning our school improvement process with all of the rest of the Hays Schools as we proceed with our new QPA District Improvement Plan. That writing of that plan will be done by a district team in mid-August, and full implementation will be put in place during the 2009-

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2010 School Year. We will be developing a staff development plan as well and will be assigning external teams to assist us with the process.

Wilson School celebrated having achieved the "Standard of Excellence" in the areas of Math and Reading during the 2007-2008 School Year. We continue to spend many hours focusing curriculum and instruction to match the state assessments given each spring, and also had several staff members who spent many hours in various in-service sessions and study groups this again this year. The staff did a marvelous job of preparing the students again this year, both in content and in test-taking strategies. Our preliminary results for 2008-2009 look very good, although we have a few students showing more of a struggle with math this year. We will be looking at ways to address those additional math needs next year. We did go 100% Computerized Assessments this year and had no issues related to that. Again this year, extensive use was made of the formative assessments provided by CETE. The state assessment results were reported to the students and their parents through letters that were handed out at the end of the school year (math and reading) and through letters mailed home after the school year ended (science and writing). These scores will also be reviewed and analyzed by the staff next fall. Copies of the building reports will be available in the principal's office for viewing.

OTHER COMMENTS

Wilson School has had another good year. The staff, students, and parents feel good about the way the school year went. An open-door policy continues at Wilson School, in which parents feel very comfortable visiting the school, helping out in the classrooms, and offering suggestions or asking questions about what goes on at Wilson School. We also had a great time this year celebrating our 50th year as a school!

Our Wilson Home and School organization continues to be a valuable asset to the school family. The Home and School continues to provide teacher grants, books for the library, toner cartridges for printers, colored paper and transparencies, laminating film, playground improvements, landscaping improvements, etc. This year, they provided the means to complete our plan to get a mounted projector and an "elmo" projector in each classroom. That amounted to around \$14,000.00 of assistance that they provided for our technology improvements. The Home & School is completing our phone system this summer (\$4500.00). This need has been on our Capital Outlay List for several years and has remained unfunded. In the interest of safety in the classroom, we felt that we really needed to get this project done so we can have a phone in every classroom and the Home & School has stepped up to make that happen. The Home & School has provided us with the means to replace four of our drinking fountains this year (\$1600.00) as well, and they are funding the completion of our carpet replacement in our hallways (\$6000.00), which is necessary because of safety concerns with the "rippling" of the existing carpet. The Home and School also provides meals for the staff during Parent-Teacher Conferences and provides gifts and treats for Teacher Appreciation Week. The Wilson Home and School provides various activities for our school, including monthly birthday recognition for the students, Snack Fridays once a month, and the annual Family Fun Night in January. They provide free T-Shirts to every student for our May "Fun In The Sun" Day and pay for the meals of all of the parents who help out with the day. The staff at Wilson is very appreciative of the way the Wilson Home and School supports them throughout the year.

As has been the case for several years now, one of the concerns that teachers and parents continue to have at this time is that of budget issues and the impact that has on both class size and materials for students. With the budget issues, they know that each teaching position is evaluated very closely before

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being filled. The Site Council shared concerns at its April meeting again this year that although numbers don't always justify the additional positions, the needs of each group of children are different and we question whether we are still able to do what is "best for kids". Wilson School has several new students move in during the year and it is extremely difficult to accommodate those additional students when the classes are already as large as they are at certain grade levels. We currently have our fourth grades looking at 28 to 29 students per room for next year. Our Kindergarten and First Grade classrooms are projected to be around 23 students per room. The concern continues to be shared as to whether we are doing what is best to improve test scores for our students when we continue to cut teaching positions and raise our class sizes. We also have more students each year with additional behavioral and social concerns, which are harder to address and work on with the larger class sizes. We know that the state finances are causing some real problems for next year, but we also feel we need to vocalize our concern with the impact that these cuts are having on our students here at Wilson School.

Our use of technology continues to improve. Teachers are doing a better job of integrating technology into their teaching, and the additional laptops included in the new technology lease have allowed for more use of computers within each teacher's classroom.

The "crowdedness" of our building is another concern of the Site Council. At this point, every available instructional space is being used to the maximum. There is a strong feeling that it would be nice to have three sections of each grade level again at Wilson School so that we were not always playing the numbers game in August and trying to add new classrooms and teachers at the start of school each year. We also do not have enough space to accommodate all of our special education needs, currently having 2 teachers and 40 students working out of a single classroom for our resource room services. We also have two full-time Title I teachers next year, which is exciting for the potential for what that can do for kids who need help, but all of that will be occurring in one small room in our building, because we have no place to put that second teacher.

The Site Council continues to share concerns about the *No Child Left Behind* legislation and the impact that it has for schools. Members are concerned about teacher burnout and about the "realism" of the legislation. There is a concern as to what education is going to look like in a few years as we all do "whatever needs to be done" to meet the legislation and achieve the necessary scores to meet the AYP criteria.

The Wilson Crisis Plan continues to be updated and drills were held throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Phone trees and responsibility charts will be updated in the plan again next fall, as well as lists of ad hoc groups available to assist in the event of a crisis. Some faculty meeting time each year will be used to review various parts of the Crisis Plan. We maintain a "locked door" policy during the school day, with all doors except the front door being locked. All people entering the building are asked to enter through the front door and sign in at the office and pick up a visitor's badge before going elsewhere in the building.

Wilson School thanks the Central Office and the Board of Education for its continued support to our school. USD #489 continues to be a strong educational district. Several families who moved to Hays this year were amazed at all that we do and all the support that there is for our schools here in Hays. We have great concerns with the way that the state legislature provides (or doesn't provide) the funding for the level of education we want to provide to our students. We have much to be proud of and want to continue that type of education here at Wilson School.

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