

Elementary/Middle School Age Committee
Wednesday, July 23rd, 2008; 10:00 to 12:00 p.m.
Willmar, MN

Present: Danette Hendrickson, PACT 4 Social Mktg Coord. Sally Belgum-Blad, 21st Century Grant Coordinator – PACT 4
Eric Vogel, U of MN Extension Youth Work Institute Sharon Mace, Shelter House Advocacy Program Director
Janice Madden, SHARE Project Director Tammie Knick, GFW School Social Worker

Janice Madden and Danette Hendrickson joined us to visit about SHARE-supported social marketing for our school connectedness campaign. Our goal is to peak the interest of school staff and provide them with helpful tips about how to intentionally connect with youth. Our plan is to provide school staff with more in-depth school connectedness research and information as the school year progresses with the culmination being training by Dr. Robert Blum in August, 2009.

As a committee, we decided to create magnets, sticky notes and pens that will be distributed to all PACT 4 area teachers in grades 5 – 9 this fall. Our theme of “Connect for Success” will be highlighted on all three items. The set of three items will be secured in a Ziploc style bag by a large sticker that has the definition of school connectedness and research points printed on it.

1. Magnet – we brainstormed the following as possible “Connect for Success” tips to be printed on the magnet:
 - a. Be at the door and greet students by name
 - b. Acknowledge students’ birthdays
 - c. Play students’ music
 - d. Ask about students’ activities and interests
 - e. Volunteer to chaperone students’ events and activities
 - f. Learn frequently-used words from students’ language
 - g. Learn and ask about students’ cultures
 - h. Include all students
 - i. Ask an opinion of a student who rarely talks in class
 - j. Help students feel special
 - k. Eat lunch with a student who appears disconnected
 - l. Take photos of students and post in classroom

2. Sticky notes and pens – “Connect for Success” tips on sticky notes and pens would include:
 - a. Say hello to students
 - b. Say student’ s name
 - c. Show an interest in students
 - d. Shake hands with students

The magnets, sticky notes and pens will carry the SHARE logo.

Our hope is that committee members will read these minutes on the Wiki site Eric has volunteered to create and provide feedback on the “Connect for Success” tips mentioned above. We plan to move forward on this project rather quickly so that teachers will have these materials in-hand on or before the first week of school. Sally will be visiting with SHARE Advisors and School-Parent Liaisons on August 6 to brief them on our plans and ask their help in distributing the “Connect for Success” materials.

We are seeking the Executive Board’ s support in funding Dr. Robert Blum’ s training and travel expenses as well as our “Connect for Success” DVD.

Next meeting: September 10, 10:30 a.m. in Willmar.